

Curriculum Comparison and Guide

Christian Education Resources



TITLE Dwell

Website

www.DwellCurriculum.org

Age/grade level

Preschool to Grade 8

Producer and order information

Faith Alive Christian Resources
1-800-333-8300

Description

In a culture that worships busyness, DWELL, a reformed Presbyterian curriculum, encourages kids to pause and wonder, imagine, and interact with different parts of God's Story. And as they do, they'll discover that God is still at work in the world and in their lives. DWELL can awaken kids to God's amazing invitation to find their own place in his story, to live into and out of it for the rest of their lives.

Unique features

- "Reformed" tips show what makes each session reformed.
- A scripture memory song is provided weekly in the elementary level
- Emphasizes wondering, encourages children/young teens to share their thoughts
- "Faith Modeling" tips help leaders share their own faith stories with kids
- Learning activities are based on multiple intelligence theory

Terms/Sessions per term

6 week units for a total of 36 sessions per year. 2-year curriculum cycle. Middle school has an additional year and preschool has 1 year of 36 sessions.

Dating

Undated

Grading

Play: Preschool, Imagine: K.-Gr. 1, Wonder: Gr. 2-3, Marvel: Gr. 4-5, and Dive: Gr. 6-8

Themes

- K-Gr. 1 Old and New Testament stories are grouped around simple themes.
- Gr. 2-3 and Gr. 4-5 stories are told chronologically, with Year 1 Old Testament and Year 2 New Testament.
- Gr. 6-8 young teens explore Bible stories paired with Q&A's from reformed doctrine

Primary Bible translation

NRSV and NIV (2010)

Learner resources

- K-Gr. 5, Show and Share papers or Storymarks and at home family devotional component.
- Gr. 6-8 a Dive magazine for each unit and an annual at home devotional book.

Music

One 2-disk CD set called Dwellsongs includes all the songs for Grades K-5 for the whole year. Music available on iTunes.

Leader resources

- Leader's guides are available in print and online
- Middle school leaders will need one copy of *Q&A: A Summary of Biblical Teachings*
- Teacher training resources available in print and online

Class kits

All materials are found in the Leader's guides, learner's resources, and Dwellsongs CD

Links to worship/service

Worship is included in Step 1 of each elementary session

Enrichment/companion pieces

God's Big Story Cards are a one-per-household companion piece for the elementary levels of Dwell. Training workshops, webinars, and articles are available online at DwellCurriculum.org

Cautionary notes

- Does not follow the church year cycle
- Grades 6-8 simple Q&A's are adapted mainly from the Heidelberg Catechism

Grow, Proclaim, Serve!

Website

www.growproclaimserve.com

Age/grade level

0-12

Producer and order information

United Methodist Publishing House

Description

Grow, Proclaim, Serve! incorporates Bible stories, activities, crafts, media, and games into a full faith experience for children. With *Grow, Proclaim, Serve!* children will develop the skills to unlock the Bible message and grow their faith by leaps and bounds.

Unique features

- Seven age-appropriate levels present a comprehensive 3-year journey through the Bible
- Ages 3–10 are on the same scope and sequence, studying the same Bible stories
- A NEW *Large Group/Small Group* model for ages 3-6 and 7 & up presents story and worship for large group time and discussion and activities for small group break out

Terms/Sessions per term

52 sessions divided into fall, winter, spring, summer. Three year cycle.

Dating

Undated

Grading

Babies & Woddlers, Toddlers & Twos, Preschool-Older Elementary, Tweens

Themes

Various themes relating to the church year based on Bible stories

Primary Bible translation

CEB

Learner resources

- DVD, Leader pack
- Postcards
- Banners
- Magazine

Music

Optional video components tells thirteen Bible stories in a unique and entertaining way. Also includes three videos plus theme song with music and movement and monthly Bible verses with sign language demonstrations

Leader resources

- Thirteen step-by-step session guides
- Reproducible sheets for additional activities
- Three-year comprehensive Bible overview that is related to the Christian year and is theologically sound
- Flexible session plans
- Activity choices for various church settings

Class kits

Story pak, fun pak and resource pak includes posters, crafts, activity sheets, take-home activity, etc.

Links to worship/service

Grow in Mission project connects all Grow, Proclaim, Serve! curriculum users to one mission project to support together

Enrichment/companion pieces

Certificates, iron-ons, photo management, surveys, and publicity material

Cautionary notes

- Does not follow church year cycle
- Each week has many activity options and may be overwhelming

Spark: Activate Faith

Website

www.activatefaith.org

Age/grade level

Age 2 - Grade 6

Producer and order information

Augsburg Fortress

Description

Offers three models: graded classroom, lectionary based, or rotational. Specifies that Scripture is taken seriously with children opening and using the Spark Story Bible or NRSV Bible in each session.

Unique features

- Provides online resources
- Lessons follow the flow of reformed worship – gather, open, scripture, activate faith, send
- Includes an “all kids” option for smaller member churches
- Has a parent link for parents to stay connected to lessons
- A quarterly magazine for families to learn together available

Terms/Sessions per term

Graded classroom: 40 lessons per year. Lectionary: follows stories in the 3 year cycle. Rotational: provides 48 different story options.

Dating

Rotation material is undated

Grading

Graded Classroom: age 2-3, pre K-K, grade 1-2, grade 3-4, grade 5-6

Themes

- Graded Classroom: studies Old Testament in the fall, New Testament in the winter/spring; Christmas, Easter, Pentecost included
- Rotational: follows eight workshop rotation models for each Bible story

Primary Bible translation

Young children: Spark Story Bible; Grade 3 and up: Spark Study Bible (NRSV); recommended that each child have a Spark Bible

Learner resources

- For Spark Classroom and Lectionary models: Leader resources include an easy-to-use teacher guide and an optional lesson prep DVD; colourful leaflets and stickers in learner packs.
- For Spark Rotation: There is one reproducible leader guide available for each unit that has all the content for all grade levels; family pages from website

Music

Spark Songbook and CD (optional); ages 2-K have supplementary songs in Leader’s Guide

Leader resources

- Lesson prep DVD packs
- Teacher videos (3-5 minutes) available online
- Good lesson overviews and supply list
- Very clear instructions for teachers
- Rotation model includes print leader’s guide

Class kits

See learner’s resources above

Links to worship/service

Prayers given; grades 5-6 have contemporary prayers

Enrichment/companion pieces

An optional CD available for each term or rotational unit. Spark blog. Free Spark e-newsletter. Spark Family: quarterly family magazine.

Cautionary notes

- Every child is expected to have a Spark Bible
- Lots of stickers, paper and pencil activities can feel “schoolish”
- Experienced teachers may find scripted lessons too rigid

TITLE Walk With Me

Website

www.walkwithmeonline.org

Age/grade level

Preschool to Grade 8

Producer and order information

Faith Alive Christian Resources, 1-800-333-8300

Description

Go on a journey through scripture with your kids and help them explore the significance of key teachings like the sacraments, the Lord's prayer, the ten commandments and the Apostle's creed. *Walk With Me* revisits foundational stories at various age levels so that kids can explore them with greater depth and complexity as their capacity to understand themes like God's covenant and God's kingdom grows.

Unique features

- Sessions embody the reformed theological perspective
- Teacher guides includes extra options to extend or shorten sessions
- Emphasizes memorizing key verses
- All children's resources are available in braille
- The *Sing With Me* children's songbook and Leaders Edition provides an additional worship component.

Terms/Sessions per term

The preschool box contains 40 sessions to repeat yearly. K-8 curriculum is divided into 9 units of 4 sessions each. Christmas, Easter and summer units are available.

Dating

Undated

Grading

Preschool, K-1, Grade 2-3, Grade 4-5, Grade 6-8

Themes

- Preschool bible stories appear chronologically
- K-Gr. 1 Old and New Testament stories are grouped around simple themes.
- Gr. 2-3 and Gr. 4-5 stories appear chronologically: Year 1 Old Testament and Year 2 New Testament
- Gr. 6-8 young teens explore a year each of themes related to Christian living, reformed doctrine, and the church and God's kingdom

Primary Bible translation

NRSV and NIV

Learner resources

- Preschool take-home cards
- K-Gr. 1 take home papers with stickers
- Gr. 2-3, 4-5, and 6-8 each unit offers a variety of learner resources
- One year of the middle school level also includes an at home devotional book

Music

Music and lyrics available in each leader's guide. Preschool box comes with its own CD. One CD per year for each of the elementary levels. There is no music for middle school. Music available on iTunes.

Leader resources

- Leader's guides include leader's resources
- A Coordinator's Handbook, and online training workshops

Class kits

Pull out resources and reproducible pages in each leader's guide

Links to worship/service

Worship options are included in lesson plans. Ideas for group worship also available. Special Christmas and Easter units provide music and materials.

Enrichment/companion pieces

- *Trail Mix: Good Stuff for Walk With Me Leaders* provides additional support for leaders. Training workshops, webinars, and articles are available online
- Take-home resources for families

Cautionary notes

- First time Walk With Me leaders will benefit from an orientation to the curriculum using the *Welcome to Walk With Me* workshop – training manual and PowerPoint slides available online
- Grade 6-8 uses simple Q&A's as a way of studying reformed doctrine, adapted mainly from the Heidelberg Catechism

We Believe/Wee Believe

Website

thepresbyterianleader.com

Age/grade level

Age 3-5 years (Wee Believe)
K-older youth (We Believe)
Multi-age K-5 (We Believe)

Producer and order information

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Description

Through Biblical stories shared in a variety of ways, children learn in a setting that stimulates their imagination and encourages class participation.

Unique features

- For multiple learning styles
- Has a multi-age option
- Good biblical background
- Strong connection to reformed theology
- Good online resources
- Enrichment resources for home use

Terms/Sessions per term

Three 13 week units; fall, winter and spring. Toddler and preschool have additional summer material.

Dating

Dated sessions

Grading

Toddler, preschool, younger elementary, older elementary, younger youth, older youth

Themes

- Young children focus on belonging to God and church community
- Elementary ages focus on worship
- Older youth explore a variety of faith questions

Primary Bible translation

NRSV

Learner resources

- Color Pak – reproducible colour resources (sold separately)
- Director CD – reproducible colour resources, take-home sheets, MP3s and more (sold separately)

Music

Preschool uses printed songs to common tunes. Need one LifeSongs book and CD for elementary.

Leader resources

- Leaders guides include reproducible b/w handouts
- Colour posters, handouts, etc. available for purchase

Class kits

None

Links to worship/service

Links to worship for elementary age. *Engage the World* and *Enhancement* in youth resources.

Enrichment/companion pieces

Youth *Enhancement* from web. Download unit hymns.

Cautionary notes

- Faith questions are from PC(USA) catechism but they are still universal Christian questions
- Downloadable summer mission projects are based on PC(USA) mission partners (need to substitute PCC partners)
- Learning expectations are quite high for teachers and students

Feasting on the Word

Website

feastingontheword.net/curriculum

Age/grade level

Kindergarten - adult; Multi-Age

Producer and order information

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
1-800-523-1631

Description

Curriculum based on the Revised Common Lectionary and the *Feasting on the Word* commentary series. Biblical background for teachers explores text from four perspectives “what?”, “where?”, “so what?”, “now what?” Adaptable to different learning settings and teaching styles.

Unique features

- Material provided for ministers makes intentional connections between worship, service and education
- Solid scriptural and theological base
- Easy to follow and readily adaptable
- Ecumenical, downloadable
- Scripture is presented in age appropriate ways

Terms/Sessions per term

Fall, winter, spring, summer, 9 and 12 month formats

Dating

Dated sessions

Grading

K 2; 3-4; tween; youth, young adult, adult, multi-age

Themes

- Follows the Revised Common Lectionary and seasonal themes of the church year

Primary Bible translation

NRSV

Learner resources

- All inclusive downloadable resource sheets and colourful teaching pictures

Music

CD available for separate purchase Child-friendly music lyrics incorporated into the lesson outline

Leader resources

- Colourful teaching pictures
- Resource sheets
- Supplies list
- Downloadable leader guide
- Comprehensive biblical background for teachers

Class kits

Age level Colour Packs for children’s age levels

Links to worship/service

Joining the Feast provides leaders with an overview to the church season, ideas for integrating curriculum activities with worship, preaching and service, all-church program ideas for special Sundays.

Enrichment/companion pieces

- Music CD. Colour Packs. *Joining the Feast* for Pastors and Worship Leaders
- Charts that provide ideas for integrating curriculum activities into worship

Cautionary notes

- No family piece in this material

Seasons of the Spirit

■ Website

www.spiritseasons.com

■ Age/grade level

Preschool; children; youth and adults

■ Producer and order information

Wood Lake Books

■ Description

This resource follows the Revised Common Lectionary. Uses a variety of learning styles and media and extends the learning experience into congregational life and worship, the home setting, and daily life.

■ Unique features

- Excellent use of visual arts
- Strong integration of learning, worship, service
- Can get resources 3 ways (CD, paper, online) from one site: info@seasonsonline.ca
- Website provides Spirit Sightings, weekly connections between scripture and current events, discussion questions, ideas for prayer

■ Terms/Sessions per term

Material may be ordered by quarter, or for 9 months or 12 month periods. 13 sessions per quarter.

■ Dating

Dated sessions

■ Grading

Birth-age 2; ages 3-5; 6-8; 9-11; 12-14; 15-18; adult. Multiage resources available (ages 5-12). Seasons Fusion provides material for worship and individual reflection.

■ Themes

- Themes arising directly from lectionary readings

■ Primary Bible translation

NRSV primarily

■ Learner resources

- Included in all age level packs

■ Music

Optional purchase. Extensive use of music; each age/grade level has CD. Music notation included in resource pack. Music features songs from around the world.

■ Leader resources

- Seasons Fusion for Congregational Life resources for worship leaders and Christian Education director or team
- Includes an audio CD, musical scores, activities
- Tip of the week

■ Class kits

Reproducible pages with leader resource; new each year

■ Links to worship/service

Ideas to create art for worship and engage in mission projects.

■ Enrichment/companion pieces

Season Fusion for Congregational Life. Music CD, Songbook, art posters, art book Behold: Arts for the Church Year (included with Congregational Life, Ages 12-14 and adult resources). Session outlines on disc.

■ Cautionary notes

- Can be overwhelming for inexperienced teachers
- Strong art component

The Best of the Whole People of God

■ Website

www.wholepeopleofgod.com

■ Age/grade level

Age 3-grade 12

■ Producer and order information

Wood Lake Books

■ Description

This resource uses the Revised Common Lectionary. Easy to use online curriculum that is designed for small member Sunday schools.

■ Unique features

- Very affordable
- Reproducible activity sheets
- Includes music

■ Terms/Sessions per term

Weekly sessions from September to May.
Summer sessions June to August.

■ Dating

Dated sessions

■ Grading

Age 3; age 4 - gr.1; gr. 2-3; gr. 4-6; gr. 7-12

■ Themes

- Themes arising directly from lectionary readings

■ Primary Bible translation

NRSV

■ Learner resources

- Downloadable "At Home" pamphlets

■ Music

CD and song book included.

■ Leader resources

- Weekly biblical background
- Weekly worship suggestions and resources including children's theme conversation
- Tip of the week
- Additional worship resources and seasonal intergenerational worship services

■ Class kits

Coloured teaching pictures included

■ Links to worship/service

Weekly resources for congregational worship and in class worship time.

■ Enrichment/companion pieces

Music CD, teaching pictures.

■ Cautionary notes

- Teachers must have access to Internet and a photocopier
- New material is not being produced – present material is updated

Brick by Brick

■ Website

www.cstones.com

■ Age/grade level

Age 5-12

■ Producer and order information

Cornerstones Publishing Inc.
1-866-851-7102

■ Description

Materials come on a CD provided by publisher. A code is purchased in order to open and access the CD.

■ Unique features

- Learners focus on one story or theme for 4-8 weeks
- Teacher/leader remains in one workshop for the duration of theme
- Creative and wide variety of activities
- Website offers 6 year curriculum plan
- Curriculum is theme based building from Old Testament, New Testament and New Church
- Curriculum can be customized to gifts of teachers
- Lessons can be purchased one at a time

■ Terms/Sessions per term

Ten units per year with a choice of 11 workshop lessons per unit.

■ Dating

Undated

■ Grading

Minimal grading except for the distinction between readers and non-readers

■ Themes

- Six yearly themes with ten units per theme

■ Primary Bible translation

NRSV

■ Learner resources

- No printed resources: Everything is in the lesson with little need for paper work for students

■ Music

No music component but there is an element of music in some workshops.

■ Leader resources

- All on the CD

■ Class kits

None needed

■ Links to worship/service

Links are through the liturgical themes.

■ Enrichment/companion pieces

Everything included in curriculum.

■ Cautionary notes

- A strong planning team is needed
- Learners and leaders may not develop strong bonds as leadership changes frequently
- Must have printer access for all teachers
- Not a lot for children to take home

Potter's Workshop

■ Website

www.potters-publishing.com

■ Age/grade level

Kindergarten to Grade 6

■ Producer and order information

Potter's Publishing

■ Description

Experience based curriculum – not a lot of paper and pencil. Uses a multiple-intelligences approach to teaching. Seeks to teach the Bible to effect radical transformation of children's minds and hearts. Seeks to help kids mature in the Christian faith and integrate their faith with their lives. All material comes on CD or download.

■ Unique features

- Uses Spiritual Journals for children
- Curriculum can be downloaded from the website or also comes with a CD with multiple print resources for the 6 workshops in each rotation unit
- CD includes resources needed to prepare for the unit including purchases to be made for the unit
- Children have a "shepherd" who goes with them in their rotation to provide continuity
- Curriculum can be purchased one unit at a time and units can be mixed and matched

■ Terms/Sessions per term

6 yearly themes including Old and New Testament stories. 7 rotational units per theme.

■ Dating

Undated

■ Grading

Primary (K-grade 3); Intermediate (grades 4-6)

■ Themes

- Six year scope and sequence under the following yearly themes: New Beginnings; Covenant and Renewal; Faith – living by God's promises; Great Moments of Faith; Faithful Believers; Living by the Light
- There are 7 units that are 6 weeks long
- Churches are free to pick and choose from different yearly themes to design your own program

■ Primary Bible translation

NIV and CEV

■ Learner resources

- There are links in the curriculum for resources

■ Music

Music CDs, 70 songs created expressly for specific rotation units.

■ Leader resources

- There is a free unit of curriculum called "Joseph" on the website to be downloaded for teachers to test

■ Class kits

None needed

■ Links to worship/service

Units have links to both worship and service.

■ Enrichment/companion pieces

Everything included in curriculum.

■ Cautionary notes

- Teachers need to have access to a photocopier

Based on our review and use of various resources, Canadian Ministries recommends the following materials. For additional recommendations please contact Canadian Ministries at cm@presbyterian.ca.

One-Room Sunday School

One-Room Sunday School ... Abingdon Press; growproclaimserve.com

For ages three years old to grade eight, One Room Sunday School helps teachers present a lesson to a broadly-graded group that is challenging enough to hold the interest of their older children without going over the heads of their younger children. Curriculum includes: reproducible activities book, a leader's guide, a resource pak, and a music CD.

Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsENCORE – Multi-age ... Wood Lake Books; seasonsonline.ca

This resource is uniquely designed to meet the needs of a leader with a single group of up to 15 children between the ages of 5 and 12. This multi-age resource offers different age-appropriate options and learning styles for engaging with the biblical stories. Additional reproducible resource sheets are available.

The All-in-One Sunday School Series: Be Ready No Matter Who Shows Up

... cokebury.com

This series includes creative programs designed for ministries with mixed-age classes of children ages 4-12 with 13 lessons. This series will work in all multi-age class settings including small member Sunday schools that combine classes every Sunday or for larger member Sunday schools that combine classes in the summer.

Young Children

God Loves Me (storybooks) ... Patricia L. Nederveld; faithaliveresources.org

These beautifully illustrated storybooks serve as building blocks to help children learn that God loves them. Children ages two to three can respond to the stories through follow-up play activities that help the children grasp the meaning further. Available individually or as a full set, which includes 52 storybooks and leader book, with story cards.

Seasons of the Spirit – Growing Faith ... Wood Lake Books; seasonsonline.ca

The Growing Faith Kit contains five board books, five posters, a music CD and songbook, and a leader's guide, packaged in a handy tote bag. For ages birth to two; purchase once to use year after year.

Splash! Pack: Birth to Three Faith Formation ... augzburgfortress.org

This resource helps families fulfill the promises made at their child's baptism. Contains 12 monthly newsletters and a music CD. Each issue gives ideas and inspiration for families to worship, pray, eat and play together. Three different packs: 1-12 months with "Sleep Time Tunes"; 13-24 months with "Totally Toddler Tunes"; 25-36 months with "Singable Sunday Tunes"

Children and Worship ... presbyterian.ca/children-and-worship

Children and Worship is a beautiful way to present biblical stories to young children in a worship format with a wide range of ages (3-10 years). It invites children to experience God through a unique story-telling technique using wooden figures and flannel materials and is based on the philosophy of Maria Montessori. The program was developed by Sonja Stewart and Jerome Berryman and is described in their book, *Young Children and Worship*. The PCC provides leadership training across Canada. For leader training or more information contact Linda Shaw at 519 428 5396 or ianandlindashaw@gmail.com. Other resources include: *Following Jesus*, by Sonja Stewart, *I Wonder...* *More Bible Stories for Children and Worship*, by Janet Schreuder; and various books about *Godly Play* by Jerome Berryman.

Youth

Amazing Bible Race ... Abingdon Press; Age Group: Sr. High; amazingbibleace.com

Take your youth on a journey through the Bible, with a thrilling scavenger hunt adventure that brings to life the biblical characters, stories, events, and messages that we have come to love and live by. Join with youth all across the country and around the world – to experience the fun of competition, the balance of team cooperation, and the prize that rewards the participants for the rest of their lives.

Bible Lessons for Youth ... Cokesbury; Age group: Grades 7-12; www.cokesbury.com

Teach youth the entire Bible in six years using a comprehensive Bible-to-life curriculum in an easy, step-by-step sequence. Activities stimulate teens to conduct self examination, think about serious issues, make value judgments and apply biblical principles to their life. Every lesson in each six-year curriculum block is charted and calendar dated.

Echo the Story 12/36 ... Augsburg Fortress; wearesparkhouse.org/teens/echothestory

In both the 12 and 36 session packages, students will enter into stories imaginatively – observing, drawing, writing, and discussing. These lessons will take youth from creation into the formation of the church, where youth will find meaning and identity in the stories of the Bible. Echo the Story offers groups options to fit context, student-centered learning, and a space where creativity and personal expression are fostered, and transformation experienced.

Faith Questions ... PCUSA; Age Group: Jr. & Sr. High; webelieve.pcusa.org/faith-questions

Each Faith Questions mini-course responds to real faith questions posed by real youth from across the PCUSA. Each study encourages young people to look at scripture and faith traditions in relevant and responsive ways. Written with older youth in mind, this curriculum is easily adaptable for broadly graded youth programs. Each series contains a four or six week exploration of a topic. Movie, music, media, and other technologies are suggested.

Nooma ... Zondervan; Age group: Sr. High/young adult; nooma.com

Nooma resources are short DVDs and study guides focusing on real life issues that interest young minds and stimulate discussion. “We can get anything we want, from anywhere in the world, whenever we want it. That’s how it is and that’s how we want it to be. Still, our lives aren’t any different than other generations before us; our time is. We want spiritual direction, but it has to be real for us and available when we need it. We want a new format for getting Christian perspectives. NOOMA is the new format.”

re:form ... Augsburg Fortress; Age group: Grades 6-8; wearesparkhouse.org/teens/reform

re:form is a customizable curriculum that is rooted in historic Christianity. It empowers youth to discover what they believe. This curriculum includes 40 interactive lessons and includes a DVD, leader’s guide and participants “anti-workbook”. Other resources include: re:form Ancestors; 30 session youth bible study, and re:form Traditions; four sessions on our historic faith (Methodist, Reformed and Lutheran options).

Single Digit Youth Groups: Working with fewer than 10 teens **Single Digit Youth Groups 2: More Activities, Plus Mission Ideas**

... Marcey Balcomb; Abingdon Press, 2004; Age group: Jr. & Sr. High

This resource provides a faith-based rationale for youth ministry with small groups, along with helpful tools to enable it to happen. Also includes chapters on cooperative youth ministry, safety issues, activity ideas and various forms and worksheets.

Thinking Theologically ... Abingdon Press, 2004/2005; Age group: Sr. High; www.abingdonpress.com

Don’t tell youth what to think – teach them how to think, by helping them grapple with personal choices and serious real life issues. Discussions include: What does theology have to do with money, pop culture, body image, disparity between rich & poor and more.

Veracity Video Vignettes ... Abingdon Press; Age group: Sr. High; claimthelife.com/veracityvideo

A 12-volume series of DVD clips that help the truth of scripture meet real life. These discussion starters can be used to teach teens important lessons about the Christian faith. Each DVD volume features five short films.

Adult

Opening Doors to Discipleship ... The Presbyterian Church in Canada; odtd.net, PCC log-in is 42596

Course A: Teaching Skills. Course B: Basic Bible – an online, interactive tour through the Bible. Course C: Presbyterian/Reformed Faith. Course D: Discipleship. Bible Experience: Beginner. Click on “Sign Up” and follow instructions for free training or online study opportunities.

20/30 – Young Adult Series ... Abingdon Press; abingdonpress.com

Designed for adult learners in their 20s and 30s. Theme based studies include topics such as: Family, Afterlife, Grace, Balance, Faith, Community, Family, Love, and Prayer. Seven sessions, Session time: 60-90 minutes, Bible Experience: Mid-level

Adult Bible Studies & Daily Bible Study ... Cokesbury; adultbiblestudies.com

A weekly dated resource that is Bible-based and Christ-focused. This study series from the United Methodist Church is great for adult Sunday school classes or mid-week Bible study groups. 13 sessions, Session time: 45 minutes, Bible Experience: Mid-level

Animate ... Augsburg; augsburgfortress.org

This seven-session study includes a DVD with a different leading Christian for each session that challenges the investigation of the Bible and our faith. A leader book and work books are available.

Discover Your Bible ... FaithAliveResources.org

A study series that helps everyone discover the richness of God’s word. Helpful study guides use the inductive approach to help participants understand the passage for themselves and apply its truths to daily life.

Dream. Think. Be. Do. ... livingthequestions.com

Looking for a springboard to get young adults talking about what Christianity is all about for this generation? DreamThinkBeDo is an engaging catalyst for conversation among young adults searching for what’s next. Starting with the foundation of “Love God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind” aims to help college groups and 20 to 30-somethings build a 21st Century faith.

Genesis to Revelation ... Abingdon Press; abingdonpress.com

A comprehensive 13-session, verse-by-verse Bible study series covering all the books of the Bible. Each study book uses a three dimensional approach to learning – What does the Bible say? What does the passage mean? How does this relate to my life? Bible Experience: Mid-level

In the Works Series ... FaithAliveResources.org

This five-session series explores how Christians can be part of God’s mission in the world. Each title includes five daily readings for each week, five discussion guides (with activities, Bible study and discussion) and follow-up action options to apply the study to life.

Infuse Bible Studies ... FaithAliveResources.org

This study book series aims to help people discover where faith and life meet. Each study book features a different book of the Bible. The study provides background, geographical and historical information to make the story feel real.

Jesus the Forgiving Victim ... forgivingvictim.com

This DVD or online course offers an introduction to faith while embracing a straightforward Christian orthodoxy. By embarking on this course, participants journey through discovery that will open hearts and minds to discovering new things about faith. It is a journey from a unity that needs to create victims toward a unity received from the risen and forgiving victim in our midst. Jesus the Forgiving Victim is a wonderful companion on the journey toward a deeper faith and fuller life in Christ.

Living the Questions ... livingthequestions.com

A 12-week DVD and web-based small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. Leaders include John Bell, John Shelby Spong, Yvette Flunder, and Tex Sample. Available for loan from Canadian Ministries.

Living the Questions 2.0 ... livingthequestions.com

LtQ2 is an open-minded study that strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. Featuring 30 acclaimed scholars, theologians and other experts, LtQ2 consists of 21 sessions which may be offered in sequence or as three independent flights of seven units each: "Invitation to Journey," "Reclaiming the World" and "Call to Covenant." Contributors include Diana Butler Bass, Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, Brian McLaren. Available for loan from Canadian Ministries.

Nooma ... Zondervan: www.nooma.com

See Nooma listing under "Youth."

Saving Jesus Redux ... livingthequestions.com

Ever feel like Jesus has been kidnapped by the Christian Right and discarded by the Secular Left? Saving Jesus Redux is total revision of Living the Question's popular 12-session DVD-based small group exploration of a credible Jesus for the third millennium. Join new contributors for a conversation around the relevance of Jesus for today.

Seasons of the Spirit – SeasonsENCORE Adult ... Wood Lake Books; seasonsonline.ca

Based on the Revised Common Lectionary, this resource allows for deep investigation of the biblical material, engages various learning styles and provides meaningful ways to draw on the arts. Length of Study: Church year, order by season; Bible Experience: Mid-level to Advanced.

The Kerygma Program ... kerygma.com

Resources that challenge the mind and deepen faith through a variety of studies that include two courses that focus on the Bible as a whole, four courses on foundational questions of Christian thought, and many shorter courses on particular themes or books of the Bible. Length of studies: Varied; Bible Experience: Advanced.

The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism ... timothykeller.com

Why does God allow suffering in the world? How could a loving God send people to Hell? Why isn't Christianity more inclusive? How can one religion be "right" and the others "wrong"? Why have so many wars been fought in the name of God? These are just a few of the questions and doubts even ardent believers wrestle with today. Keller has compiled a list of the most frequently voiced "doubts" skeptics bring to his church as well as the most important reasons for faith. Literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and reasoning explain how faith in a Christian God is a soundly rational belief, held by thoughtful people of intellectual integrity with a deep compassion for those who truly want to know the truth.

The Thoughtful Christian ... Presbyterian Church USA; thethoughtfulchristian.com

These are web-based resources that can be used for Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, or individual reflection. The studies encourage class members to share their thoughts and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life. Areas of study include: In the News, Bible and Theology, Popular Culture, Contemporary Issues, Spirituality, and Christian Living. Bible Experience: Mid-level.

Word Alive ... Faith Alive Christian Resources; faithaliveresources.org

Three series options include studies in the Old Testament, New Testament or topical studies. The study series digs into the Bible texts to find new insights into daily living. Length of studies: Varied; Bible Experience: Mid-level.

Family

PLANNING FOR FAMILY MINISTRY

Children Matter: Celebrating Their Place in the Church Family and Community

••• Scott May, Beth Posterski, Catherine Stonehouse and Linda Cannell, Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 2005

This book offers a full discussion of children's spirituality and shows how the faith community can effectively nurture its youngest members.

Embracing Parents: How your Congregation can Strengthen Families

••• Jolene & Eugene Roehlkepartain, Abingdon, 2004

Emphasizes a home/church partnership; encourages churches to strengthen family faith formation.

Passing on the Faith: A Radical New Model for Youth and Family Ministry

••• Merton P. Strommen & Richard Hardel, Minnesota: St. Mary Press, 2000

Practical wisdom from practicing congregations. "I recommend this book wholeheartedly – and with high hopes the church may listen" Kenda Creasy Dean.

Starting Your Messy Church ••• Lucy Moore, Messy Church, 2012

This is a one-stop-shop to get any congregation going. You'll understand the vision, what Messy Church is and isn't, the values, see the time commitment needed, starting strategies, explore the network, learn questions to ask, what to expect, tips for organization, and how to sustain your Messy Church. This resource is for churches who are interested in starting or ready to go ahead with a Messy Church program. Checklists, milestones, strategies and a resource section are included.

Wrapped in God's Love: A Milestone Ministry Resource

••• Canadian Interchurch Stewardship Committee, 2004; presbyterian.ca/resource-centre

This resource helps congregations to celebrate significant transitions of change and growth along life's journey with its congregants. This resource covers the period of time from infancy through 18 years of age.

Vibrant Faith ••• Internet resource: vibrantfaith.org

Vibrant Faith helps equip families to pass on faith and live well in Jesus Christ. The organization also offers consulting, research-based, visions and trains church leaders, lay volunteers and church professionals to equip families to pass on faith.

Dreaming of More for the Next Generation:

Lifetime Faith Ignited by Family Ministry ••• Michelle Anthony, 2012

With a fresh approach to spiritual formation, Family Ministry for a New Generation inspires children's and family pastors along with their volunteers to take a new look at what is most important in the lives of those they shepherd. Family Ministry for a New Generation is not program-driven. It encourages the leader to be Spirit-driven. Children's and family ministry veteran, Michelle Anthony, comes alongside readers to help them investigate the "why" behind their ministry paradigm and to focus on the generational outcomes.

Think Orange ••• Reggie Joiner, 2009

With a transparent, authentic approach that gives every family and church hope for being more effective in their common mission, Think Orange rethinks the approach to children's, youth, and family ministry.

Postmodern Children's Ministry: Ministry to Children in the 21st Century

••• Ivy Beckwith, 2004

This practical, thought-provoking book presents a new paradigm for children's ministry in the emerging 21st century and explores how churches are currently putting that vision into practice. Advocating the need to regard children as full participants in their faith communities, the book provides strategies for building intergenerational community where children feel they belong and have the opportunity to serve.

RESOURCES FOR CHURCH FAMILY USE

Learning God's Stories Together: Intergenerational Program for Church & Home

••• Dorothy Henderson, Wood Lake Books, 2007

Twenty Bible studies and activities for families to do together.

99 Ways to Raise Spiritually Healthy Children (devotional)

••• Kathleen Long Bostrom, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010

This book is a gentle and stress-free way to take moments of quiet reflection, even in the busiest of lives.

Christian Family Toolbox: 52 Benedictine Activities for the Home

••• David Robinson, The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2001

Offers spiritual activities for families: health, life together, hospitality, growth, etc.

Family Faith Walks: On-the-Go Faith Activities

••• Kelly J. Haack, Concordia Publishing House, 2002

This book is a collection of devotions and activities to help families grow in faith together by engaging on excursions in the neighbourhood or community, games, projects and other activities.

God with us today ••• June Galle Krehbiel, Faith & Life Resources, 2006

100 engaging devotions which include scripture, prayer, questions, fun activities.

Side by Side: Families Learning and Living the Faith Together

••• Delia Halverson, Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002

This is a unique Sunday school resource that allows children and parents to learn together. The book contains nine 45-60 minute classroom sessions that focus on specific topics or themes.

WE ••• Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2010, wecurriculum.org

This is a faith nurture resource for the entire church family. The original WE: The Epic Story is ten sessions. Also available – WE: Enter the Tabernacle (five sessions), WE: The Unshakeable Promise (six sessions), WE: Expectations on Advent (one session).

Mid-Week/Outreach

A Mission Learning/Sharing Experience for Children and Youth

••• Download or purchase from the PCC Resource Centre; presbyterian.ca/resource-centre

This resource, produced biennially, is for children ages 6-16. Each five-session resource is adaptable for church schools, VBS, camping, mid-week groups and family or intergenerational events.

Bible Adventures I & II

••• United Church Publishing House; Age group: Ages 5-12; ucrdstore.ca/curriculum.html

These two curricula are each five-sessions long. *Bible Adventures I: Sharing the Good News* helps children to see that people of faith working together can bring acts of caring, peace, and justice to their world. A music CD is included. *Bible Adventures II: Walking with Jesus*, helps children understand that walking with Jesus is a daily choice and challenge. The sessions use a hiking theme to connect the biblical message to children's lives through drama, games, snacks, crafts, and a labyrinth.

FaithWeaver Friends ••• Group Publishing Inc.; Age group: Preschool to Grade Six; fwfriends.com

FaithWeaver Friends focuses on helping children discover they have a real friend in Jesus. Dated, quarterly curriculum is available fall through spring. The Discovery Centers are flexible, allowing leaders to shape them to fit space & time available. Multi-age small groups encourage learning and relationship building.

Highpoint ••• Gospel Publishing House; Age group: Kindergarten to Grade Five; gph.org

A multi-media curriculum focusing on helping elementary kids become more like Jesus one biblical character trait at a time. It uses high-energy large & small group time, singing, video, skits (no need to memorize), crafts/activities, verse memorization, service projects, worship, discipleship, fellowship, fun & games. Intentional five-session themes.

Kid Connection

••• Faith Alive Christian Resources; Age group: Kindergarten to Grade Six; kidconnectiononline.org

Kid Connection is biblical, great for outreach, and relevant to today's kids. It features a large group/small group format, with thematic four lesson units. Each session begins with worship time and a Bible story presentation. Focuses on connecting: church and home, kids with God, and church to community. Three year cycle – 9 units available/year = 36 lessons/year.

Logos ••• The LOGOS Ministry; Age group: Elementary to High school; genonministries.org

Logos is a mid-week ministry that helps children and youth build and deepen their relationships with Christ and with each other. The four parts of the LOGOS weekly ministry model are: Bible Study, Worship Skills, Recreation Play, & Family time (shared meal).

Mission Possible Kids

••• United Methodist Church; Age group: Kindergarten to Grade Six; missionpossiblekids.org

MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS (MPKids), is a non-profit organization, empowering kids to change the world by helping others. Children participate in mission activities such as collecting goods for food banks, cooking meals for homeless shelters, making gifts for hospitalized children, raising money to end world hunger. MISSION POSSIBLE KIDS offers a year of detailed mission plans which you can use as is, adapt or use as a guide to create your own.

Profession of Faith/New Members

Glorifying and Enjoying God: The People, Practice and Promise of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

••• Dorothy Henderson; The Presbyterian Church in Canada; presbyterian.ca/resource-centre

This updated booklet can be read individually or in a group setting. This resource can be used for adults or youth. It provides discussion opportunities, with a few activities. Seven sessions.

Gifts of God: The Sacraments (DVD and study guide)

••• The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 2010; presbyterian.ca/resource-centre

A resource for all age groups in congregations designed to help Christians new or mature understand the beauty and meaning of the Sacraments. Length of Video – 14 minutes (two-seven minute clips); includes two expandable sessions.

I Believe: Getting ready to profess my faith ••• Jessie Schut; Faith Alive Christian Resources

This resource pairs youth and adult mentors to learn together or it can be done in small groups. It encourages studying scripture, personal expression of faith through creativity, questioning and discussion. Eight sessions. (some Christian Reformed content)

Leap in Faith: A Confirmation Resource

••• Alfano, Bowles, and Garland; United Church Publishing House

This resource challenges youth to explore their faith and how it intersects with life. Different options are provided for its use, both personal and community, depending on the context. The resource also provides ways for congregations to engage in new ministry opportunities and programs in the form of challenges. It is not organized into designated "sessions": (some United Church of Canada resources and references)

Making Disciples: A New Approach to Confirmation

••• William H. Willimon; Logos Productions Inc.

This mentor-based confirmation program partners youth with adult mentors and guides them through learning experiences that strengthen the understanding of the Christian faith and connect youth with the community of believers in a personal way. Coordinator's guide, mentor's guide and support video, confirmand's journal and guide, are available. 13 sessions.

The Great Adventure: Exploring Christian Faith with Young People

••• Patricia Pays; Augsburg

An innovative resource that provides sound theological background and a wide range of engaging activities (drama, music, literature) to help students aged 10-15 explore Christian faith. The focus on faith development is excellent and universal. Seven sessions. (some Anglican content and examples)

We Believe: Professing Our Faith ••• Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Meg Rift & Eunice McGarrah

This resource provides youth with a foundational understanding of Reformed-Presbyterianism. It presents the biblical foundations and theology of the Apostle's Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer. The resource encourages young people to explore the meaning of their baptism and participation at the Lord's Supper, church polity, stewardship, spiritual practices, worship and mission. Two options – full-length format includes thirty-five sessions, including two for use at Christmas and Easter, and is designed for use during the school year or an abbreviated eight-session program. Order directly at store.pcusa.org or by phoning 1-800-524-2612 (some American content and examples).



They devoted themselves
to the apostles'
teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread
and the prayers.

Acts 2:42



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