

Spring 2016 Curriculum Overview for Youth Formation

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
<i>52 Great Bible Studies for Youth</i>	Faith Alive (Reformed) www.faithaliveresources.org	Bible studies challenge teens to respond to God's Word in their daily lives and are ideal for youth groups, church school classes, retreats, and more.	Eleven units with three to seven sessions each on topics such as: Gossip, Decisions, Forgiveness, Kingdom of Heaven, Money and Lifestyle, Self-image, Service, Stressors (TNIV/The Message)	Designed for student led groups	One page session plan. Downloadable.	High School	All sessions via download \$40.00 Individual sessions \$3-\$5.00 UNDATED
<i>Bible-in-Life</i>	David C. Cook (independent) www.davidccook.com/curriculum/davidccook	Evangelical guidance to present basic Bible truths without being distracted by doctrines over which Bible-believing Christians may disagree. Having a personal relationship with Christ; a desire to witness, minister and serve	Scope & Sequence (small Anglican supplement "The Lamp Lighter" in center of teacher's guide) 100% New Testament core lessons (NIV/KJV)	Teacher preparation for each lesson – questions (with answers) provided; "easy-to-teach & easy-to-prepare"	Relies on student booklets / visually oriented	Toddler/2 – Adult	Per quarter: \$8.29 Teacher \$19.99 Aids \$4.59 Craft book \$4.59 Take home \$5.19 Student book <i>print & digital</i> DATED
<i>BLAY (Bible Lessons for Youth)</i>	Abingdon (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com	Help youth discover that the Bible has meaning for life today! Bible-based lessons help youth claim the Scriptures as their own.	Following the International Lesson Series, youth examine the entire Bible over a six-year period.	The Leader Book has a facsimile of each page from the Youth Book, Bible commentary from biblical scholars, and in-depth lesson plans	The Youth Book has the actual Scripture reading, reflections on how the Scripture relates to their life, and activities to engage their interest	Grades 7 – 12 with adaptable levels for Jr. High and Sr. High teens	Per quarter: \$11.99 Leader \$8.99 Youth DATED
<i>Claim the Life</i>	Abingdon Press (Methodist) www.ClaimtheLife.com	God is already at work in the lives of your youth. Claim the Life brings together the hopes you have for your youth: spiritual formation, discipleship, Christian community, and faith knowledge from confirmation to graduation.	6-year comprehensive youth curriculum for (MS: Journey/Word/Faith & HS: Promise/Story/Call; Each year's theme has 2 semesters of 16 weeks each; based on key words or phrases	CD-ROM, web, e-mail and DVDs with 2 teaching options: activity based or discussion based (using videos or questions)	Traditional classroom or youth group involves video vignettes, interactive website and print materials	Grades 7-9 Grades 10-12	Per semester: \$15.99 Leader \$7.99 Student \$30 Teaching tools \$22 Videos UNDATED

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<i>Colaborate: Bible Study</i>	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/colaborate	Hands-on investigative learning that leads to deep engagement with the Bible, faith, and what it means to be a Christian.	15 Old Testament or 15 New Testament stories and themes begin with an infographic, then short animated video, interaction, and project.	Leader Guide has Bible verses, a theological and historical background, and practical support to guide each lesson.	Traditional classroom focused on problem-based learning	Youth	\$29.99 Leader Guide \$7.99 Student Handbook \$29.99 DVD
<i>Connect</i>	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/connect/	Tweens revisit the Bible's greatest stories, uncover major biblical themes, and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives. It's Bible-centered Sunday school with just enough quirky tween humor to get them hooked.	2 year Scope & Sequence of 5 units (30 lessons each) Year 1: OT (100%) Year 2: NT (60% Gospel, 40% Acts, Letters, etc. of NT) NRSV	Leader Guide is 4-page easy lesson plan. Dependent on DVD for "warm up" video, Connect Bible, and Learner Sheets (project papers). Often involves food and candy.	Traditional classroom, 60+ minute session	Tweens (Grades 5-6)	Per Unit: \$19.99 DVD \$9.99 Leader \$4.49 Learner (per student) Connect Bibles: \$24.99 Hardcover \$19.99 Paperback
<i>Dwell: Dive</i>	Faith Alive (Reformed) http://dwell.faithalive.com/resources.org/home	Intentionally crafted as an ongoing journey in God's story. Each year builds on the previous one—from preschool all the way through grade 8. In age-appropriate ways, children are introduced to beautiful simplicity, growing complexity, and deeper mystery.	3-year Scope & Sequence of OT & NT stories; Annually 6 units of 5-6 sessions each	Online training modules; Session plans for leaders	Traditional classroom; magazine, Dive Devotions, Story Symbol Sets,	Grades 6-8	\$8.00 Leader's Guide (per unit) \$8.00 Dive Devotions \$6.00 Magazine (per unit) \$13.00 Story Symbol Set
<i>Echo the Story (12 or 36)</i>	Sparkhouse/Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) (Michael Novelli) http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/echothestory	Students see the Bible and God in new and different ways through the storying process.	A 12-session overview from creation to the church and a 36-session journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation	Six part sequence led by a leader: 1. Rewind 2. Prepare 3. Imagine 4. Capture 5. Remix 6. Connect	To connect with different learning styles, each student chooses between the drawing and creative writing activities in the Sketch Journal.	Youth	12 Session: \$24.99 Leader \$39.99 DVD \$9.99 Student 36 Session: 6 each \$14.99 Leader \$22.99 DVD \$6.99 Sketch Guide

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<i>encounter: Meeting God Face-to-Face</i>	Standard (Independent) www.encounterface2face.com	“A Bible-based, culturally relevant, easy-to-teach, personally challenging, age-appropriate curriculum can lead teens to meet God face-to-face!”	Many pieces of scripture tied to contemporary issues. “Designed to help teens meet with God, not be indoctrinated with dogma about God.”	Teacher choice of activities. Online group support and additional resources for tapping into current events	For small group ministry. Books, video, audio and on-line resources	Young Teens (Ages 12-14) High School (Ages 15-18)	Quarterly: \$29.99 Teacher Kit \$8.49 Teacher Guide \$17.49 Resource \$4.49 Student \$19.99 Magazine
<i>Faith in Motion</i>	CRC (Reformed) www.cokesbury.com	Help young people realize they can have an active faith by discussing thorny dilemmas and serious questions with helps to find solutions in the Bible	16 relevant teen themes/volumes with 7 lessons under each topic	Leader’s Guide has background information; lesson plan; ideas for outside the classroom	Colorful student journals and current topics of interest to teens	Grades 6-8 (12-15 years)	Per theme: \$14.99 Leader’s Guide \$6.49 Student Journal UNDATED
<i>Faith Lens</i>	Evangelical Lutheran Church of American (ELCA) http://blogs.elca.org/faithlens	A weekly Bible study/discussion for youth & young adults, linking a current news story and scripture texts	Lectionary-based (NRSV)	Simple lesson plan with discussion questions, prayer and an activity	On-line, downloadable; posted every Wednesday	Middle School, High School, Young Adults	Free
<i>FaithLink</i>	Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com/faithlink	A study for use by individuals or groups of mature youth and adults who want to apply their United Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events.	The weekly lesson examines current news items from the perspective of biblical faith and United Methodist teaching. (NRSV)	Each weekly issue (6 pages) contains 4 copy-ready pages of background information and core Bible passages on the topic and 2 pages of suggested group activities and discussion questions.	On-line, downloadable	Older Youth, Young Adults, Adults	\$9.99 per issue/download
<i>Faith Questions</i>	Congregational Ministries Publishing (PCUSA) www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/curriculum/youth/	Based on faith questions asked by youth. Each session encourages young people to look to Scripture, as well as our faith tradition, in relevant and responsive ways.	30+ topics such as God, Church, The Bible, Jesus Christ, Forgiveness, Heaven & Hell (from a PCUSA perspective)	The Leader's Guide explores of a topic with multiple faith questions.	Movie, music, media, and other technologies are suggested throughout the curriculum to supplement the lessons.	Older Youth	Downloadable Coffeehouse version free with purchased \$14.35 Leader’s Guide

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<i>FaithWeaver NOW</i>	Group Publishing (independent) http://group.com/sunday-school/faithweaver-now	Concentrates on authentic learning education, and every activity has a purpose in encouraging faith growth for all ages.	Scope & Sequence quarterly with scripture and another key bible verse 25% OT 75% Gospel	Teacher Guides include background and dialogue script for speaking to class	Bible memory verses, drama, arts & crafts, stories – implies families study together at home	Toddlers – Adult	Quarterly: \$49.99 Class Pak \$11.99 Teacher \$5.99 Student \$9.99 CD DATED
<i>Feasting on the Word</i>	Westminster John Knox Press (PCUSA) www.feastingontheword.net/curriculum	Ecumenical resources that incorporates the uniqueness of commentaries providing for different approaches to each of the biblical passages of the lectionary readings.	Lectionary based. 63% Gospel 18% NT 18% OT	Comprehensive, accessible biblical background from four perspectives: exegetical, theological, pastoral and homiletical	Downloadable or print and ship option; packet of posters mailed separately	Grades (K) 1-2 Grades 3-4 Tweens (Gr. 5-6) Youth Young Adult Adult	\$720/\$900 Total Church Plan \$150/\$185 per age level Downloadable / or Print & ship \$65 Color Pack DATED
<i>Generation Why</i>	Brethren Press (Mennonite) https://shinecurriculum.com/generationwhy/	All-in-one curriculum guides youth and their leaders on a journey for meaning and identity. In a time of violence, injustice, materialism, and hard questions, GW offers a different point of view.	“Bible-based explorations of issues facing youth” Modules of 6 sessions, plus extender session	Detailed session plans for teachers	Classroom	Youth	Per module: \$20.99 Print \$23.99 CD (pdf)
<i>God Talks</i>	LeaderResources by Heidi Hawkes (Episcopal) http://leaderresources.org/God-talks	To learn that one has a life purpose, to seek connection with inner self, to seek connection with God and the world around, to experience transcendence.	Topic-based program examines a single theme or concept (one per 2-5 weeks) with the goal of addressing the characteristics of spiritual development.	Downloadable lesson plans accessible through subscription membership	Classroom, downloadable lessons 20 topics	Designed for younger youth but all ages of youth may find it applicable	\$99-279 subscription membership Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Grappe</i>	Group Publishing (independent) www.group.com/grapple	Answers tough preteen questions – and helps kids discover the power of a growing faith in Jesus	12 attention-grabbing lessons and Bible studies with access to create your group’s own online community (90% NT)	Basic booklet with lesson plans and DVD of video clips; on-line support	DVD and on-line with class discussion	4th-6th grade (preteen) and Junior High modules	Quarterly: \$69.99 per class size (8 quarters available)

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<i>Journey to Adulthood</i>	LeaderResources (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/j2a	Manhood & Womanhood are gifts from God. Adulthood must be earned. Rites of Passage are important; Pilgrimage is to seek God	Three 2 year components; each focuses on all aspects of a person: self, society, sexuality and spirituality	Huge amount of materials with lesson plans, liturgies, more; training recommended	Traditional classroom setting and youth group modules combined	Rite-13 (6-8th grade) J2A (9th-10th) YAC (11th-12th)	\$149-\$349 per year ASA downloadable UNDATED
<i>Lesson Plans that Work</i>	Episcopal Church (Episcopal) http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/	Lessons are a guide to centering Christian education in the church & home around the Biblical story	Lectionary Based, can choose OT or Gospel lesson NRSV	Simple plans with biblical background, list of questions and activity; blog	Usually one activity per lesson with supplemental suggestions	Younger & Older Elementary; Adult Intergenerational	FREE Downloadable DATED
<i>LinC (Living in Christ)</i>	Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com	To develop Christian identity and live the Christian faith in contemporary culture, by challenging youth to think about their faith and beliefs.	Two full programs and a devotion on a timely issue – weekly. With the immediacy of online technology, relevant information about current issues that have immediate impact on youth.	Background and scripture related to the issue, book and movie reviews	Group setting for discussion	Older Youth and Young Adult (can be adapted depending on topic for younger youth)	\$9.99 per week or download DATED / past issues available for download / purchase
<i>Living the Good News Online</i>	Morehouse Education Resources (Episcopal) www.livingthegoodnews.com	Brings people together to discover and share God's word through learning, worship & everyday life. RCL (with support site for TEC, UMC, PCUSA, UCC and ELCA churches) and Catholic lectionary	Lectionary based 30% Old Testament 70% New Testament (GNB & NRSV)	Teacher Guide with scriptural background; Clear lesson plan; Support site with additional ideas and handouts	Completely online with links to additional resources inc. music, art, articles. Take home papers can be emailed home.	(All ages) Young Teen (Grade 7-9) High School (Grade 10-12)	Annual per level: \$139.99 Annual access for all levels: \$649.99 Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Making it Real & Relevant</i>	LeaderResources (Episcopal) By Heidi Hawks http://leaderresources.org/making-it-real-and-relevant-mrr	A multi-media, topically based Bible study so youth can explore God, Jesus, the Bible, their faith and values in ways that show them how real and relevant these topics are in their lives.	Available in an RCL lectionary format (Gospel) that examines community and world issues using video clips & current music.	Teacher lesson plans with lists of video & music used	Semester: 16 Fall & 17 Spring sessions; use of video & music; art experiences	Middle & High School	\$99 – 279 based on AWA Downloadable

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Mustard Seed Series	LeaderResources by Anita Keire - UCC www.leaderresources.org/mustardseed	Opens the minds & spirits of students & teachers to the richness, variety and purpose of God's word and action among us.	Chronologically centered on the Bible; 340 texts covered in 10 years	Complete lesson plans with no training needed; supplemental books by author	Student books, teacher directed with answers given	K – Grade 9 (Confirmation)	\$99 – 399 based on AWA Downloadable \$13.95 Student \$37.95 Teacher per grade REUSABLE
NOOMA	Flannel & Zondervan (Independent) www.NOOMA.com	A series of short films that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.	24 short (5-10 minute) videos of everyday things and situations paired with Rob Bell's commentary about Jesus in the common. (many translations)	None – video with booklet that has pictures, scripture and questions. Films are provocative for conversation.	Produced as video or downstream (Flannel) or video and download (Zondervan). Booklets	Older Youth Young Adults Adults	\$35.99 download bundle UNDATED
re:form	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/reform/	Youth encounter a question from the historic Christian faith through creative, provocative humor, illustrations and animation. (Created as a Confirmation resource, but has other potential)	Each question is presented in simple terms to encourage exploration and discovery. The DVD Set has 40 session videos. Each video is between 5-7 minutes in length.	Leader Guide has a theological background on the question presented and includes direction for the individual and group activities included in the Anti-Workbook.	DVD video is central with Anti-Workbook for student exploration	Grade 5 & 6 Middle School Confirmation	\$59.99 DVD Set OR \$12.95 digital download per video \$39.99 Leader Guide \$19.99-\$16.99 Anti-Workbook (1 per student)
re:form Ancestors re:form Traditions	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://reform.wearesparkhouse.org	Explores the ancestors of our faith by exposing the real, unpolished, and unexpected personalities of the bible. Discover the similarities between themselves and the many unlikely people selected by God to do extraordinary things.	Ancestors: 15 OT characters 15 NT characters Traditions: Lutheran Methodist Reformed	Leader Guide has a theological background on the question presented / includes direction for the individual and group activities in the Anti-Workbook.	DVD video is central with Anti-Workbook for student exploration	Designed for High School due to the issues discussed	\$24.99 Leader \$29.99 DVD \$8.99 Anti-Workbook Each – The OT & NT Ancestors are sold separately
Seasons Encore	Wood Lake Books, (Ecumenical) www.spiritseasons.com	Empower all ages to be transformed in Christ as they explore the Bible, worship, service and ministry	Lectionary & ecumenical using the Revised Common Lectionary (NRSV)	Complete lesson plans and extensive website support and chat-rooms	Multi-media, drama, music, stories, art, outreach & mission	All ages: Preschool – Adult Youth: 12-14 & 15-18	\$152.15 per level all year (web) Quarterly: DATED

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<i>Teen Text</i>	The Educational Center (Episcopal) www.educationalcenter.org/resources/resources-youth	Helps youth connect the text on the page with events in their daily lives through discussions guided by a series of open-ended, text-related questions	Lectionary CEV & NRSV	Discussion guide provides information to facilitate the session; ability to be open and a good listener	Traditional classroom setting	Two levels: Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12	Annually: \$75.00 each level DATED
<i>The Sunday Paper</i>	The Sunday Paper (Independent / Episcopal – written by Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard) www.the-sunday-paper.com/	“It helps children to acquire a vocabulary of crucial Scriptural images, and to relate the Gospel to the OT, life of the Church, & their own lives.”	Lectionary-based; Gospel focused with OT & Psalm; Line drawings in cartoon fashion with activity page and commentary	None	Church (worship bulletin), home, nursery, or classroom	Intermediate – Grade 8	Annually: \$105 print \$76 download DATED
<i>The Thoughtful Christian</i>	Westminster John Knox Press (Presbyterian) www.thoughtfulchristian.com	Bible study should be timely. It should stimulate our thoughts about Christian values and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life.	Web-based resource center comprised of various studies in units of 1-4 sessions on timely topics as well as denominational subjects from a variety of traditions	Each session is designed for 45-60 minutes with a 3-4-page Participant Handout and a 2-5 page Leader's Guide with lesson plans & resources.	Individual or group study	Youth Young Adult Adult	Downloadable as PDF files that can be duplicated Range from \$5 - \$18 per unit; discounts for subscribers
<i>These Are Our Bodies: Talking Faith & Sex at Church & Home</i>	Morehouse Education Resources (Episcopal) www.churchpublishing.org/theseareourbodiesfoundational	A sexuality education resource that enables them to embrace and affirm the wholeness of sexuality and to talk openly and honestly about the connection of sexuality and faith.	A 10-week course, grounded in Scripture (CEB) that follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather • Game • Grapple • Guide • Go 	Full facilitator / leader guide with dialogue, glossary, handouts, activities.	Small group study with adults with parallel resources for parents to engage the conversation at home.	Modules: Middle School High School (other age levels forthcoming)	\$24.00 Foundation Book \$21.95 Leader Guide \$6.95 Parent Book \$6.95 Participant Book
<i>Weaving God's Promises for Youth</i>	Morehouse Education Resources www.weavinggods-promises.org/Program/Youth/	To teach our youth the way of Christ, not only in the church but in the world; to help them make connections between the lessons and their own lives; to prepare them for Christian adulthood.	Year 1: Weaving Our Faith theme is God loves us and stays with us Year Two: Weaving Together the Family of God / Year Three: Weaving God's Beloved Community	Full teacher lesson plans, background material and appendix to assist a teacher in planning and knowing middle school students.	Age-appropriate activities using all modes of learning. Based on scripture, Episcopal traditions & worship, Christian living	Middle School Grades 6-8	\$99-369 ASA pay and download Year 1: 40 lessons Year 2: 45 lessons Year 3: 48 lessons

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<i>We Believe: Faith Questions</i>	Congregational Ministries Publishing (Presbyterian) http://webelieve.pcusa.org/faith-questions/	Created specifically for Presbyterians, focuses on Reformed heritage. In different ways, each age level includes content from Reformed creeds, confessions, catechisms and statements of faith.	Track for youth are in 4-6 session mini-courses exploring questions particular to the Bible, creeds and confessions of PCUSA	Leader Guides with specific plans; online training, downloads and newsletter		High School youth	\$15.95 Teacher \$72.95 Kit
<i>The Best of Whole People of God Online</i>	Wood Lake Publishing www.wholepeopleofgod.com	A simple, easy-to-use curriculum for your entire Christian Education family.	Lectionary based	Downloadable plans and Weekly Tip Newsletter	Materials for classrooms, worship, home	All ages	\$99 – 1,300 Annual subscription (Sept-August) on church size
<i>Witness</i>	Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) www.augsburgfortress.org/learning/sunday-school/witness	To give students a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge with the practical ways to share their faith in daily life: to know the Word, grow in faith, show service	Two-year undated quarterly using scripture metaphorically Old Testament 33% New Testament 67%	Material prep and detailed printed dialogue for teachers to have with students	Variety of activities are simple with a hands-on approach	Closely graded – ages 2-8th grade	Semester: \$8.99 Teacher \$19.99 Class Kit \$7.99 Learner UNDATED

NOTES:

- Coloring coding: Yellow – Children/Middle School; Blue – Tweens; Green – Youth; Orange – All ages – many including young adult and adult
- ASA = Average Sunday Attendance / AWA = Average Worship Attendance
- Bible Translations:
 - NRSV – New Revised Standard Version
 - NKJV / KJV – New King James Version / King James Version
 - CEB – Common English Bible
 - NLT – New Living Translation (paraphrased)
 - CEV – Contemporary English Version
 - NIV – New International Version
 - TEV – Today’s English Version
 - GNB – Good News Bible

Confirmation resources for youth are not included here and can be found on a separate chart.

For updated overviews of curricula for children, youth & adults and more in-depth reviews, see www.rowsofsharon.com. For more information or questions regarding this chart contact Sharon Ely Pearson spearson@cpg.org