

JUNE 2021 CHILDREN’S CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher Support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
252 Kids (Orange)	The re-Think Group (non-denominational) https://thinkorange.com/252-kids-curriculum/	To discover and develop a relationship with Jesus Christ (modeled on Basic Truths by Jesus in Luke 2:52); <i>God reveals Himself to us through the Bible and is 100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative.</i>	252 Basics is built around 3 basic truths, which are amplified through 36 monthly themes and 150 Bible stories, 4 Faith Skills, 30 Life Apps.	Multitude of “job descriptions” for a team of leaders; conferences held throughout the U.S. “Orange Specialist available for consult. Blog.	Web based & streamlined video; Combination small group & large group lessons, including worship	K-5 th Grade Homeschoolers	Annual license \$510-2,776 based on children’s program attendance Spanish available
An Illustrated Curriculum	Illustrated Ministry (Presbyterian/non-denominational) www.illustratedministry.com	Faith-based resources for church and home to foster authentic faith engagement. <i>We celebrate the expansive image of God in everyone through open, inclusive and progressive language, imagery, and theology.</i>	12-week no-prep curriculum using biblical stories that focus on the themes (Lord’s Prayer, compassion, earth care, and joining God at work in the world, beatitudes)	5-page lesson plan, resource pages, coloring pages	Gather, Story, Imagine, Color, Compassion in Action, Music	Children Intergenerational	\$9.99-99.99 (Family set) From \$89.99 (Curriculum Bundles) Some Spanish available <i>Downloadable</i>
Beulah Land	Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard (Independent/Episcopal) http://the-sunday-paper.com/id14.html	Beulah Land is The Sunday Paper made into a full-color, interactive system for storytelling and imaginative play. It will help you enhance or introduce storytelling in your ministry with children.	OT Heroes, NT, Acts & Adventures, Salvation Story, and Miracles & Parables stories (Montessori / open-ended approach)	A notebook of stories, including background on worship & spirituality with children. (Felt materials sold separately)	Uses felt figures (need to be cut out & assembled) for storytelling; CD of story script along with art & craft activities	Ages 3-10	Curriculum: \$80 (CD-ROM) \$95 print Felt Materials: \$175 Starter Set (needed for all) \$150- 300 for other sets REUSABLE
Bible-in-Life	David C. Cook (non-denominational) https://shop.davidcook.org/collections/bible-in-life	Evangelical guidance to present basic Bible truths without being distracted by doctrines. Having a personal relationship with Christ; a desire to witness, minister and serve.	Bible story based (with small denominational supplemental ‘wraps’) 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; Digital take-home resources for students and families	Toddler/2 – Adult	Per quarter/age, from: \$8.49 Teacher; \$22.99 Aids; \$6.29 Craft/Take home; \$6.29 Student; \$79.99 Digital Bundle DATED

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<i>Bible Story Basics</i>	Abingdon Press (United Methodist) www.biblestorybasics.com/	With a focus on Bible stories and biblical literacy, helps kids realize that the Bible is more than a history book and that it's relevant to their lives today.	3-year Bible story based: 25% OT, 38% Gospel, 37% NT; children will memorize key verses, internalizing God's Word while having fun with music, games, puzzles, prayer, and more.	Traditional 6-page lesson plans with teacher background and devotional; step-by-step instructions.	Print, traditional classroom model; 45-60 minutes	Pre-reader: 3-7 year Reader 8-12 years	Quarterly: \$14.99 Leader \$8.99 Reader \$49.99 Annual Class Pack \$19.99 CD of take-home papers DATED
<i>Building Faith Brick by Brick I and II</i>	Emily Slichter Given (Episcopal) www.churchpublishing.org/buildingfaithbrickbybrick	A culturally relevant, hands-on way to explore faith stories with a broad range of ages using Lego bricks	Book I: methodology as well as 30 OT and 24 NT stories with lesson plans. Book II: Parables	Lessons plans for each story with the book	Flexible for church, home, school, small groups, VBS	Elementary-age	\$22.95 each UNDATED
<i>Catechesis of the Good Shepherd</i>	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (Roman Catholic roots) www.cgsusa.org	Using Jesus as a guide, God and the child have a unique relationship with one another; build upon joy, simplicity and contemplation.	It is rooted in the Bible, the liturgy of the church, and the educational principles of Maria Montessori. Materials focus on the life of Christ, parables and liturgical items in true to form child-friendly size.	Level I training is foundational to becoming attuned to the religious life of the child, the Bible, liturgy, the handmade materials, atrium, preparing the catechist "album"	Children gather in an "atrium," a room prepared for them, which contains simple yet beautiful materials that they use and 'fall in love with God by myself'	Level I: 2 – 6 years Level II: 6-9 years Level III: 9-12 years	Training for teachers is \$250-\$500. Home-made materials UNDATED
<i>Celebrate Wonder</i>	United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH) www.cokesbury.com/celebrate-wonder	Honors the spiritual life of children through experimental activities, spiritual practices, and reflection; serves as a biblical guide to help children make meaning for their lives.	Opening, Bible story, 4 activities, closing. Each lesson closes with spiritual practice. 3-year spiral learning covers the Bible (Genesis – Revelation)	Session plans with instructions and questions	Print, digital, and virtual options. 45-60 minutes	3-5, 6-8, 9+ (age levels)	Per quarter: \$14.99 Leader \$9.99 Activity Sheets \$29.99 DVD \$19.99 Family Book (5 pack) DATED

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Children Worship and Wonder (Young Children and Worship)	Independent (associated with Reformed Church traditions, including PCUSA & Disciples of Christ) www.rca.org/resources/childrenandworship	Presents a joyful way for children to worship God. It invites children and adults to experience the wonder and mystery of God through a unique storytelling format and multi-sensory materials (from a reformed tradition)	Montessori based; Story scripts in two books: <i>Young Children and Worship</i> and <i>Following Jesus</i> by Sonja Stewart (with Jerome Berryman in 1st book) OT & NT	A network of trainers offers workshops in worship centers across the United States and Canada.	Experiential responses to storytelling (see Godly Play)	3-7 years; worship center	\$30.00 per book (English & Spanish) Materials found at: www.worshipwoodworks.com UNDATED
Connect	Sparkhouse (ELCA) www.wearesparkhouse.org/kids/connect/	Engage preteens in God's big story through videos, Bible exploration, and hands-on projects to connect stories with biblical themes	2-year Bible story based; 10 units exploring connections between several stories each week (6 lessons per unit) (Year 1 OT, Year 2 NT)	Instructions and questions support leaders, lessons includes prep page with background on the Bible, theology, preteens	Traditional classroom; DVD, bible, and learner pack dependent with typical classroom supplies	Grades 5 & 6	Per unit: \$11.99 Leader \$5.49 Learner \$25.99 DVD \$21.49 / \$25.49 NRSV Bible UNDATED
Cross Explorations	Concordia (Missouri Synod) https://www.cph.org/c-2931-cross-explorations.aspx	Over 3 years, children learn about God's plan of salvation as it unfolds in the OT, in the life of Jesus, and in the growth of the Early Church, as recorded in the Gospels and Acts.	Bible story based with 13 stories per quarter with a focus on biblical literacy (ESV & Lutheran Service Book)	Teacher Guide basic easy-to-follow format: Start, Read, Look, Find	1-hour format: Engage: sets up the lesson; Explore: in-depth Bible study; Express: activities	Large group/small group with adult level covering the same scripture. Gr. 1-3, 4-6	Quarterly: \$19.99 Teacher \$8.99 Student \$19.99 Craft book \$24.99 Music CD \$139.99 Total Kit UNDATED
D6 Every Day	Randall House (Free Will Baptist) http://d6family.com/d6curriculum/	D6 Curriculum (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-9) aligns small group environments at church to where the entire family is studying the same theme at the same time, connecting church and home.	Bible story based in which all ages study the same scripture together each week in quarterly units 41% OT, 38% NT, 21% Gospel (KJV, ESV, NKJV)	Leader's Guides Downloadable resources and pages dedicated for teachers, children, parents	Classroom setting; power points, coloring sheets, more; memory sheets (Digital and print)	All ages (each has its own title: Adventure Kids, Discovery Kids, Explorer, etc.)	\$63.99 Teaching Essentials \$10.49 Teacher \$4.49 Study Guide \$54.99 Digital Bundle Print / digital DATED

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<i>Dare to Dream</i>	Abingdon (UMC) Mike Slaughter https://www.cokesbury.com/dare-to-dream?pagenumber=1	Discern God’s dream for you/us and learn to live it out prayerfully and enthusiastically.	Participants develop a life mission statement that supports the commitment to a God-directed lifestyle.	Children’s Leader Guide includes the session plans	4-6 week study	Ages 5-7 and 8-11	\$11.49 Leader Guide \$14.99 DVD \$3.99 Streaming
<i>Diddy Disciples</i>	SPCK (Church of England-Anglican) www.diddydisciples.org 7 Principles: www.diddydisciples.org/7keyprinciples	Create a space for children to encounter God for themselves, inviting them to discover, explore, and take an active part not only in telling Bible stories but in all forms of Christian worship.	2 oversize books: Book 1 – Sept. to Dec. (4 units); Book 2 – Jan. to Aug. (6 units); 20 weeks/sessions per book; inc. fingerplays, songs, the telling of a Bible story, creative response	All-inclusive session plan within the book.	Print books include an appendix of supplemental resources including music and patterns.	Babies, toddlers, and young children	\$39 (US) per book UNDATED
<i>DIG IN</i>	Group Publishing (non-denominational) https://diginapp.group.com/Programs Statement of Faith: https://www.group.com/category/about-us/statement-of-faith.do	Allows you to adapt lessons to fit your unique needs with creative, multisensory experiences that immerse your kids in deep Bible learning, helping them know Jesus personally and grow in relationship with him.	5-year Quarterly Bible-based. 1: <i>Digging into the Life of Jesus</i> ; 2: <i>Digging Into the Bible in One Year</i> ; 3: <i>The Heart of God</i> ; 4: <i>Epic Teaching of the Bible</i> ; 5: <i>Foundations of Faith</i>	Teachers “pick a format, select the activities you like best, & experience how having a ‘just right’ lesson makes teaching fun and effective.	Classroom setting; up to 2 hours of “blocks” of content that the teacher constructs from a menu of options; DVDs	Preschool – Grade 6	Cost per quarter based on class size: \$109-384 (Access of one quarter at a time online) UNDATED
<i>DiscipleLand Unlimited</i>	Through the Bible Publishers (Independent) https://unlimited.discipleland.com Statement of Faith: www.discipleland.com/Our-Beliefs	DiscipleLand is built on the Children’s Discipleship System – an intentional, relational, and transformational process to help make lifelong disciples who know God intimately, love God passionately, and serve God selflessly.	6 levels (24 quarters) of sequential Bible story curriculum: Bible lesson, world missions story, bible memorization, application stories/scripts, response activities	Teacher Guide, website for teachers & parents http://disciplezone.com	Classroom setting; 45-90 minutes of weekly lesson material	6-14 years (six levels by grade) Curriculum also has corresponding modules for other ages	Annually: \$50–\$10,000 Forever: \$150–\$30,000 UNDATED

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DWELL <i>DWELL Flex</i> <i>DWELL Digital</i>	Faith Alive (Christian Reformed) https://dwell.faihalivereources.org	An ongoing journey in God’s story, with each year building on the previous one, children are introduced to beautiful simplicity, growing complexity, and deeper mystery.	2-year Bible story based (36 sessions) (50% OT, 50% NT) Preschool – Play K-1 st – Imagine 2 nd -3 rd – Wonder 4 th -5 th – Marvel 6 th -8 th - Dive	Leader’s Guide; support site for teachers includes videos, articles, and downloads; Digital version available	Classroom setting; music; print materials include take home papers and story cards for households	Preschool – Grade 8	Per unit: \$9.00 Leader’s Guides (also available as download) \$6.50 Children’s \$14.00 Story Card UNDATED
Episcopal Children’s Curriculum	Virginia Theological Seminary (Episcopal) https://vts.edu/resource/episcopal-curriculum-for-youth/	To assist in living out the covenant made in Holy Baptism through our faith and practice as it is continually reexamined through Holy Scripture and the preserved tradition of the Church.	3 year thematic, Bible story based of 4 units each: OT, NT, Sacraments, the Church; Shell Year – Baptism, Chalice Year – Eucharist, Cross Year – Worship	Comprehensive lesson plan with teacher background, prayers, story, activities.	Classroom setting; totally online and downloadable: lessons plans, student papers, booklets, cards;	Pre/Kindergarten Primary (Grades 1-3) Intermediate (Grades 4-6)	FREE UNDATED
LIFT (Living in Faith Together)	GenOn Ministries (Ecumenical) www.genonministries.org/collections/sunday-lift Faith Statement: www.genonministries.org/pages/all-about-us-what-we-do	LIFT brings generations together around tables with the sharing of food, fellowship, and learning.	3 units of 4 sessions each (that can stand alone) based on scripture and biblical themes	Facilitator-led plan includes complete details for gathering time, breaking bread together, studying God's Word together, playing together and praying together	45-60 minutes; downloadable	Kindergarten through 8 th grade	\$150.00 per age level \$762.00 (K-5) Set \$1,143.00 (K-8) Set UNDATED
FaithWeaver NOW	Group Publishing (Non-denominational) www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/faithweaver-now.do	Weave together a family’s journey in faith by teaching the same Bible truth to all age levels. Families apply those truths in their daily lives, growing in their faith.	3-year quarterly Bible story-based covers Genesis to Revelation; each quarter is a 13-week Bible event/theme. All ages study same stories. With editable digital version.	Teacher Guides include background and dialogue script for speaking to class	Classroom setting. 30-60-minute time frame. Bible memory, drama, arts & crafts, stories – implies family studies together at home.	Infant – Adult / Parents	Quarterly: \$52.39 Class Pak \$21.19 Teacher \$4.29 Student \$10.49 CD + Extra supplies DATED

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<i>Feasting on the Word: Teaching the Revised Common Lectionary</i>	Congregational Ministries Publishing (PCUSA) www.pcusastore.com/Products/CategoryCenter/CCFOW/Feasting-on-the-Word.aspx	By intentional connection of worship and faith formation, leaders and learners will find their Christian faith enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship reinforce and expand what is explored during their educational time.	Lectionary based incorporates the Feasting on the Word commentary style to explore one of the lectionary passages in ways suitable for all participants.	Each age level provides comprehensive, accessible biblical background for teachers from four perspectives.	An ecumenical, downloadable resource for a traditional classroom setting	All ages K-Adult Multi-age	Quarterly: \$300 total church (digital) \$390 (print) \$95 per age level (digital) \$100 (print) \$25 Color Pack per age level DATED
<i>First Look</i> (See 252 Basics above)	The re-Think Group (non-denominational) http://thinkorange.com/firstlook	First Look gives preschoolers a first impression of their heavenly Father and the wonder of His love for each one of them.	Biblically based (100% accurate, reliable, and authoritative)	Large and small group scripts include worship, introductory sketch, bible story and memory verse.	Classroom or home setting; components to share with parents; downloadable	Birth – 5 years	Online based licensing agreement \$590-\$2,275 on Pre/K attendance
<i>Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living</i> NEW	Presbyterian Publishing Company (PCUSA) www.pcusastore.com/FollowMeCurriculum	Based on practices Jesus did and taught us to do as faithful followers. Examines where these practices are found in the Bible and how they have been used – then and now.	36 units; each studies a practice for 4 weeks (Lent has 6 weeks). Session: Opening ritual, encounter the practice, find the practice in the Bible, find it now, practice the practice, sending out. NRSV	Leader guides with background & essay, experiential, taps into Book of Common Worship & Hymnal of PCUSA	Classroom, intergenerational, home settings; print (with permission to make copies of take-home practices)	Young children (3-5) Multiage (6-10) Youth (11-18) Adult Intergenerational	Quarterly Print /Digital price: \$35/\$30 Children/ Youth Guide \$15/\$12 Adult Leader Guide \$8 Adult Reflection Guide \$45/40 Congregational Guide \$10 Infographic Posters (download only)
<i>Frolic</i>	Sparkhouse (ELCA) www.wearesparkhouse.org/kids/frolic/	A playful introduction to basic faith concepts in a way that's fun and age appropriate for young children.	2-year Scope & Sequence of 52 lessons each to match the storybooks	Leader Guides correspond to board & picture books, enrichment posters, music CDs, and nursery cards, Bible	Nursery, Preschool, Family setting options	Nursery (birth-2) Preschool (3-5) Family	\$19.99 Leader Guide \$16.99 Storytelling Posters \$29.99 Book Bundles

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Godly Journey (aka <i>Road to Rome</i>)	LeaderResources (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/GodlyJourney	Road to Rome invites participants into the life of the early church and introduces them to Christians who helped spread Christianity.	35 sessions (45-60 minutes each). Uses “The Message” Bible by Eugene Peterson	Lessons plans offer detail background for each session’s experience.	Drama, snacks, Jewish and early Christian worship, build a diorama, playing games and much more.	5th & 6th Grade or intergenerational possibilities	Downloadable \$89.00 UNDATED
Godly Play www.godlyplayfoundation.org www.godlyplayresources.org	Church Publishing (Episcopal) www.churchpublishing.org/complex/godlyplayrint/ www.churchpublishing.org/godlyplaydigital	To teach children the art of using religious language (parable, sacred story, silence & liturgical action) through wonder in a way that is playful and meaningful.	Montessori approach of presenting scripture – OT & NT, seasonal & liturgical stories. Vol. 2, 3, 4, 6 (updated with new stories and parent pages)	8 Volumes of stories. Training available. Free videos: www.youtube.com/user/GodlyPlayFdn	Multi-sensory materials – child-directed choices; chapel, church school, hospital or home use. Parent pages available for download.	Ages 3-11; has been used with all ages successfully	\$32.95 per book Parent pages and individual lessons available as downloads. Materials range from \$15-500+ UNDATED
Gospel Light	David C. Cook (non-denominational) www.gospellight.com	Guides children to a deeper understanding of Jesus through mentoring relationships with teachers and parents with a strong emphasis on discipleship and evangelism.	4-year scope & sequence to take children through the Bible 5 times by 6 th grade. 25% OT, 75% Gospel/NT	Every teacher guide includes clear steps on how to lead a child to Christ. 2-hour lesson plan. Question w/ answers given.	Storytelling, games, Talk Time, “cool art activities,” and more. Free family pages.	Age graded: Nursery to Preteen	\$149.99 Classroom Kit \$16.99 Teacher \$6.99 Student Free Take-Homes \$27.99 Visual Resources DATED
Grapple	Group Publishing (non-denominational) www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/grapple.do	Answers tough preteen questions – and helps kids discover the power of a growing faith in Jesus	8 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 60-65 minutes	4th-6th grade (preteen) and Junior High modules	\$69.99 (per quarter) \$447.94 (all 8 volumes) UNDATED
Growing in Christ	Concordia Publishing House (Missouri Synod) https://www.cph.org/c-212-growing-in-christ.aspx	This same-age classroom model helps students learn and grow in faith alongside their peers as they explore the Bible, draw connections to the Small Catechism, and learn the traditions of the Lutheran Church.	13 Bible story-based sessions per quarter; tied to Bible words, faith words, a hymn, Luther’s Small Catechism, and Liturgy; atonement theology (25% OT, 75% NT)	Teacher Guide with complete lesson plans, dialogue, Bible story, patterns, etc. www.cph.org/sunday-school offers online support	5-page lesson plan with on-line support and updates. Posters, etc. with Teacher Tools	Early Childhood Lower Elementary Upper Elementary Middle School High School Adult	\$19.99 Teacher Guide \$19.99 Teacher Tools \$8.99 Student

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<i>Growing in God’s Love: A Story Bible Curriculum</i>	Westminster/John Knox Press (Presbyterian Publishing Corporation) www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/13638/Story-Bible-Curriculum.aspx	It is through the stories of the Bible that we get to know God, the things Jesus did and said, and ourselves as beloved children of God and as members of the faith community.	35 units that focus on biblical themes or people and their stories; 148 OT & NT; 3-5 sessions per unit. NRSV & CEB	Lesson plans: enter, read, pause, engage, wrestle, bless; plenty of discussion prompts for engaging conversation with all ages.	Print / download options; intergenerational suggestions for worship, education, connections, and service for each	Ages 5-10 with intergenerational/ family options	\$27 3-session unit (print) \$24 (digital) \$36 / \$32 4-session unit \$45 / \$40 5-session unit \$25 <i>Story Bible</i>
<i>Hands On Bible Curriculum</i>	Group (Independent) www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/hands-on-bible-curriculum.do	Use unique games, snacks and crafts to help kids learn about God, because kids retain more by interacting with a lesson instead of just hearing it.	2-year Bible story based; 4 seasonal units per year. Each age level studies a different story each week. (60% OT and 40% NT) Each lesson contains one Bible Point.	Use objects to teach the bible. Voted "easiest to teach" in a national poll of children's ministry leaders. With step-by-step teacher guides.	Classroom setting; 30-60 minutes each, use of “gizmos” to teach bible truths	Infants through Grades 5&6	\$117.29 Learning Lab (per class) plus ancillary materials UNDATED
<i>Hearts Alive!</i>	New Growth Press (non-denominational) https://biblestudymedia.com/hearts-alive/	Provides liturgical congregations a 3-year course of study to give children a strong overview of the story of salvation and how it ties to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.	3-year lectionary-based (RCL); Gospel-centered, emphasizing the story of salvation through Jesus Christ in every lesson (inc. OT stories). (NIRV)	Leader Guide with dialogue/answers for teacher provided. Bible story resource not included.	Traditional Sunday School: Bible memory verses, snack, crafts, games, Bible story, take home paper 60 minutes	PreK-Kindergarten Lower Elementary (1 st -3 rd) Upper Elementary (4 th -6 th)	Per quarter: \$79.99-119.99 depending on #of students; all downloadable DATED
<i>HeartShaper</i>	Standard (non-denominational) www.heartshaper.com	Introduces children to God, His Son, His Word, & His Church through active participation in Bible stories/study, multi-sensory learning, Bible skill-building, life application.	2-year Bible story based OT: Summer/Fall NT: Winter/Spring (NIV/KJV)	Teacher and family resources on web with activity options and learning styles. Answers are giving to teachers for questions.	Traditional classroom setting: Bible Memory activities, seasonal ideas, service projects Downloadable teacher guides.	Toddlers/Twos – Preteen (6 th Grade)	Per quarter: \$8.99 Teacher \$20.99 Resources \$20.99 Pictures \$45.99 Kit \$22.99 Take Home DATED

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Holy Moly	Sparkhouse (ELCA) https://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/holymoly/	Holy Moly captures the imagination of kids by bringing the Bible to life. Kids walk away from class excitedly retelling the stories they just learned and eagerly awaiting what's next.	2-year Bible story based on 5 units each with animated Bible story DVDs, rhyming Bible storybooks, and interactive leaflets. Single lessons available à la carte as download	Leader Leaflet Webinars	Classroom setting; begins with animated video, discussion, use of Storybooks or Connect Bible, and create a paper-type craft.	K-4th grade	Per unit: \$8.49 Bible Storybook \$4.49 Learner \$20-25 Bible \$11.99 Leader \$39.99 DVD UNDATED
In the Spirit of the Circle	Forward Movement (Episcopal) www.forwardmovement.org	Building on the rich storytelling traditions of Native American and Indigenous peoples, this unique resource connects some of the most deeply treasured and difficult narratives of our First Nations peoples with stories of the Old and New Testaments. Experience Indigenous ways of traditional spirituality and culture - with Jesus and with each other.			Classroom	Children Youth Adult	\$12.00 Workbook \$35.00 Posters UNDATED
A Joyful Path: Inner Wisdom Series	The Center for Progressive Christianity (non-denominational) https://progressivechristianity.org/childrens-curriculum/	Giving children the foundation they need to walk the path of Jesus in today's world, with stories and affirmations to help children clarify their own beliefs while staying open to other traditions.	2-year curriculum (38 lessons each / 8 units per year) Year 1: Behavior over belief Year 2: 8 Tenets of Progressive Christianity Year 3: to come	Teacher's Handbook Online Support Forum	Classroom setting or home setting; 2 or 3 options for exploring the theme – art, music, simple craft, story, color affirmation pictures	Ages 6-10	\$125=245 per year depending on usage/size of group (in multiple format options) UNDATED
Kid Connection	Faith Alive (Christian Reformed) https://kc.faithaliveresources.org	Designed to meet the unique needs of small Sunday Schools and midweek programs from the Reformed tradition perspective.	4-year Bible story based: 4 lessons per unit, 3 units per quarter. Year 1&3 OT/Year 2&4 NT	Leader's Guide; program CD with printable handouts and music; on-line training and newsletter	Large group/small group format; classroom setting; family/student quarterly magazine	K-6th grade broken into K-3 and 4-6	Per Quarter: \$10.00 Magazine \$20.00 Leader \$60.00 CD UNDATED
Lesson Plans that Work	The Episcopal Church (Episcopal) https://lessonplansthatwork.org	Bible lessons are a guide to centering Christian education in the church & home	Lectionary based (RCL), tracks for Gospel or OT (track one) (NRSV); special lessons for Feast days	Simple plans with bible background, questions and activity	Usually one activity per lesson with supplemental suggestions	Younger (non-readers) & Older Elementary (grade school), Adult Intergenerational	FREE Downloadable DATED

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<i>Living the Word: Teaching God’s Story</i>	Spirit & Truth Publishing (non-denominational) https://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/narrative-lectionary-resources/	A series of full-year faith formation materials for all ages in a congregation, teaching the story of God’s love in the Bible from Creation through the early church.	4-year lectionary curriculum based on the <u>Narrative Lectionary</u> (NRSV)	Downloadable lesson plan offers background for teachers and lesson plans	Traditional classroom, cross-generational with worship or family centered. 60 minutes.	Pre/K-Grade 2 Grades 3-6 Grades 6-12	Quarterly based on #children Quarterly \$30.00-\$995.00 DATED
<i>Meet the Saints</i>	Forward Movement (Episcopal) www.forwardmovement.org	Offers children the opportunity to follow Jesus while learning about 26 of the monks, missionaries, prophets, doctors, evangelists and more who are named saints in The Episcopal Church’s calendar.	Family Storybook of 25 “story sessions” that include discussion questions for each.	Facilitators’ Guide provides a course overview, step-by-step instructions, discussion questions, activity suggestions, and handouts.	A year-long study of the saints (1 hour sessions)	Children	Free Facilitator’s Guide (download) \$10.00 Family Storybook In English and Spanish
<i>Messy Church</i>	Bible Reading Fellowship (Church of England) www.messychurch.org.uk https://messychurchusa.org	Messy Church is a way of being church for families involving fun; values are about being Christ-centered, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality, and celebration	Part of the Fresh Expressions (Emergent Church) movement in the UK it is thematic following a number of book ideas and web-based activities	Books offer ideas for creating your own “event.” View website blogs.	None traditional Sunday School – usually involves paint, a food activity, and a meal! Often held on Saturdays.	Children and families	Messy Church books with 15+ units in each \$15.00 not including supplies
<i>Mustard Seed Series</i>	Curriculum Development Associates (Anita Keire - UCC) https://mustardseedseries.com/curriculum/	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)	Per grade level: \$4.99 Student \$16.95 Teacher Downloadable UNDATED
<i>One Room Sunday School</i>	Abingdon Press (United Methodist) https://www.deepbluekids.com/curriculum/age_groups/#one-room-sunday	Hear and see Bible stories that teach us how to be true to our faith while sharing God’s love with people who might be different from us. (Was <i>Deep Blue Kids</i>)	Quarterly Bible story based: 38% OT 62% NT (CEB)	Digital or CD-ROM delivery: Leader Guide, Class Pack, Reproducible Book	Pictures, games, maps, posters, songs, storytelling figures (in print or download) 45-75 minutes	Age 3-12 in one classroom	Quarterly: \$79.99per kit \$20.99 Teacher DATED

JUNE 2021 CHILDREN’S CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher Support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
<i>Rhythms of Grace</i> www.rhythms-of-grace.org	Morehouse Publishing (Episcopal) www.churchpublishing.org/rhythmsofgrace	An experience of God's grace and unconditional love through joyful play and the sustenance of sacramental nurture.	Lesson plans on OT & NT stories & seasonal themes. For weekly or monthly; non-traditional education or worship setting	See website for more resources in addition to the lesson plans and getting started chapters	Learning centers choosing from a variety of sensory and tactile activities adapted to each theme.	Constructed to accommodate those who have special needs and their families but can be used with all ages.	\$34.95 Book
<i>P.R.A.Y. (formerly known as “God and Country”)</i>	Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (non-denominational) www.praypub.org	A religious awards program for Protestant young people recognized by Boy Scouts USA, Girl Scouts USA, Camp Fire, and American Heritage Girls	Bible story-based curriculum with emphasis on service to others; adult mentor component	Usually accomplished on an individual level – resources for adult / parent / or mentor	Midweek program option; independent between adult/parent and child (English & Spanish)	God and Me (grades 1-3) God and Family (grades 4-5) God and Church (grades 6-8) God and Life (grades 9-12)	\$4.50 Student Workbook \$4.50 Mentor Workbook \$4.50 Teacher Manual (per level)
<i>Seasons of the Spirit (Encore)</i>	Wood Lake Publishing (Ecumenical) www.seasonsonline.ca	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	Per age: \$223 (web) annually; Per quarter: \$81 (web) \$90 (print) DATED
<i>Seedlings</i>	Seedlings, Inc. (Episcopal) www.seedlingsinc.com	...for small churches... flexible... Biblically based... in the Episcopal tradition	4-year cycle Bible story based (36-40 lessons) An intro to all the major Bible stories	2-page lesson plan includes goals, background, and resource ideas	Clean art, messy art, Bible search, drama, music, stories	Broadly graded for preschool-Grade 6	\$55.00 per year \$10.00 per unit UNDATED
<i>Shine: Living in God’s Light</i>	Brethren Press & MennoMedia (Mennonite) https://shinecurriculum.com	Calls children to experience the transforming power of God’s love, including compassionate peacemaking and service	3-year quarterly Bible story / theme based; Fall – OT, Winter – Gospel from the lectionary, Spring – Jesus and “shalom modules”, Summer	6-page lesson plan includes prepare, dig deeper, gather, experience, explore, bless	Storytelling, wonder questions, leaflet projects, drama, prayer, service project ideas	Ages 3 – Grade 8, including multiage	Per Quarter: \$15.99 Teacher \$10.99 Student \$26.99 Resources \$21.99 Music CD \$24.99 <i>Shine On Bible</i> UNDATED

JUNE 2021 CHILDREN’S CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher Support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
<i>Spirit & Truth: Teaching Kids the Heart of Worship</i>	Spirit & Truth Publishing (non-denominational/ ELCA approach) http://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/products/spirit-and-truth/	Guides students through the meaning and importance of worship, the liturgy, and the church year with engaging stories, funny skits, and challenging activities.	1-year curriculum of 4 Units: The Liturgy (18 lessons), The Church Year (11 lessons), Advent Unit (3 lessons) and Christmas program. (The Message)	Downloadable lesson plan that includes a take home paper. Activities, discussion questions (with answers)	Black & white picture book (download) for PrK/2 nd , Skit for Gr. 3-6, music, and activities. 60 minutes	PreK-Grade 2 Grade 3-6	\$8.00-1,050.00 annually or by lesson by ACA. Pay and download materials in pdf format UNDATED
<i>Spark: Activate Faith</i>	Sparkhouse (ELCA) www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286767/Spark-Activate-Faith	Spark empowers kids' creativity & imagination as they explore Scripture through exciting activities that reinforce the lessons.	Bible based in 3 formats: Lectionary: 3- year cycle of RCL (NT); Classroom: 80 lessons over 2 years (OT/NT); Rotation: 8 workshop options (48 stories)	Leader’s Guide (downloadable or print); on-line lesson prep videos	Multiple options: downloadable, print, subscription depending on articulation chosen	Age 2 – Grade 6	\$44.99 per Rotation Quarterly: \$10.99 Leader \$6.29 Learner \$14.99 DVD \$9.49 Spark Family quarterly
<i>Splash!</i>	Augsburg-Fortress (ELCA) www.augsburgfortress.org/store/category/286237/Splash-	Congregations stay connected to young children and their families.	The monthly Parent Pages offer ideas for faith-filled play, worship, meals, and prayer together.	Monthly mailing newsletter for parents	Each Splash! Pack contains twelve issues of Parent Pages and a music CD	3 age ranges: 1-12 months, 13-24 months, 25-36 months	Each pack is \$16.99 per year UNDATED
<i>Stepping Out in Faith</i>	Forward Movement (Episcopal) www.forwardmovement.org/Products/2490/stepping-out-in-faith.aspx	Help children build a foundational understanding of what it means to be an Episcopalian—globally, locally, and personally.	7-week program moves through the sacraments of the Episcopal Church, helping children to connect their daily lives to the story of God, the love of Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in the world.	Downloadable facilitator’s guide includes step-by-step teaching instructions as well as weekly handouts for the students.	Downloadable	Ages 6-10	Free download UNDATED

JUNE 2021 CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

<i>Curriculum</i>	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher Support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
<i>StoryMakers</i>	StoryMakersNYC (Episcopal) www.storymakersnyc.com	Dedicated to creating imaginative content that engages children through the stories of the Bible; a new adventure series to foster faith and discovery of the God who creates, loves, and redeems.	Each lesson (unit) is explored over 12 weeks, with each 6-page chapter that includes a Bible Story, thoughts to ponder, fun facts, and activities.	The Guide helps adults help the StoryMakers (the children) enter the story through storytelling, art, and questions. Instructional videos on the website.	Mix of print and digital.	children (and families)	\$120-250 Starter Kit; Individually: \$20 Zine \$10 Memory Cards \$10 The Playbook \$15 The Guide \$5 Visuals UNDATED
<i>The Sunday Paper and The Sunday Paper Junior</i>	Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard (Independent/Episcopal) www.the-sunday-paper.com	Informal, whimsical, and faithful to Scripture. Helps children to acquire a vocabulary of Scriptural images, relate Gospel to the OT, the Church, & their own lives."	Lectionary based; Paper: Gospel focused with OT & Psalm Junior: Gospel Line drawings with activity page and commentary Episcopal & RCL	None; a blog supports her ministry https://thesundaypaperblog.wordpress.com	Church (worship bulletin), home, nursery, or classroom	Junior: Preschool – Grade 4 Paper: Intermediate – Grade 8	Annually: \$76.00 each (e-mail) or \$120.00 both DATED
<i>These Are Our Bodies: Talking Faith & Sexuality at Church & Home</i>	Church Publishing (Episcopal) www.churchpublishing.org/theseareourbodies	A comprehensive faith & sexuality program based on the universal needs of young people & their parents; honors & lifts up parents as primary sexuality educators in the context of faith.	6-10 week program for three children's age levels alongside parent sessions	Leader Guide with full session plans, background material	Activities include Bible study, movement, games, music, art	Preschool Primary Intermediate (Middle School, High School, & Youth Adult levels also available)	\$28.95 Leader Guide \$9.95 Parent (1 per age level) \$5.95 Participant (1 for two oldest age levels) UNDATED
<i>Weaving God's Promises</i>	Morehouse Publishing (Episcopal) www.WeavingGodsPromises.org	An Episcopal Bible-based program rooted in the liturgical year with emphasis on worship, education and service as the threefold components of Christian living.	3-year Bible story based of 36-47 lessons per year 25% OT 44% NT 29% Liturgical	Complete, downloadable lesson plan with extensive teacher background and activities	Prayer, story, multiple activities according to age level, connections to Episcopal traditions and seasons. "Threads" take home paper	Ages 3-11 and suitable for multiple ages gathered together	Based on AWA: \$129 - \$499 Annual license Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Wee Wonder</i>	Brethren Press & MennoMedia (Mennonite) https://shinecurriculum.com/weewonder/	Curriculum for two-year-olds that introduces young children to God through song, action rhymes, Bible stories and responsive play.	12 modules with 52 undated sessions, each with a single theme about sharing God's love	Leader's Guide with teaching pictures, story figures, and music CD	Traditional classroom or nursery setting; Bible activity cards to take home	2-year-olds	\$119.99 boxed set UNDATED / REUSABLE

JUNE 2021 CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher Support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
<i>Whirl</i>	Sparkhouse (ELCA) https://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/whirl	A 3-year Lectionary-centered Sunday school or 2-year bible story program that connects kids with the bible, church life, and worship.	Lectionary based 40 lessons (3 quarters) 60% Gospel 30% OT 10% NT Classroom model covers 80 key stories from Old to New Testament	Director's Guide Leader's Guides Webinars	Traditional classroom, DVD with cartoon characters introduces the theme of the day	Pre-K – Grade 6	Per quarter: \$11.99 Leader \$6.99 Learner \$25.99 DVD \$21.49 Story Bibles
<i>The Best of Whole People of God Online</i>	Wood Lake Publishing (non-denominational) www.wholepeopleofgod.com	A simple, easy-to-use curriculum for your entire Christian Education family.	Lectionary based	Downloadable (with option for print for additional cost) plans and Weekly Tip Newsletter	Materials for classrooms, worship, home	All ages	\$648-1,723 Annual license (Sept-August) on church size or home use
<i>Simply Loved</i> <i>NEW</i>	Group Publishing (non-denominational) www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/simply-loved.do	A simpler approach to Sunday school where kids experience God's greatest gift.	Bible based (12 quarters explores OT & NT chronologically. Each quarter is divided into three units, each with its own featured Bible Memory Buddy. Plan: Opening options, sing & play, Bible discovery; Apply-It options, Take-Homes	Quick lesson prep for a single leader. All other volunteers (called Crew Guides) simply show up and participate with kids.	15-75 minutes Traditional classroom with videos, music; digital options	Pre/K – Elementary	Quarterly: \$129.99 Standard Kit \$154.99 Digital Kit Includes: Guide, DVD, posters, stickers, reproducible take-home papers
<i>Be Bold</i> <i>NEW</i>	Group Publishing (non-denominational) www.group.com/category/ministry-resources/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/be-bold.do	Preteens explore the Bible and dive into the faith questions on their mind	6 quarters (download). Each session focuses on a question paired with Bible verses.	Pre-teen ministry blog www.group.com/childrens-ministry/blog/preteen-ministry teacher tip videos	Age-graded classroom. 30-60 minutes.	Grades 4-6	\$15.99 Leader \$12.99 Student Packs (lessons are based on these)
<i>Workshop Rotation Model (WoRM)</i>	Various publishers www.rotation.org See NOTES below for additional links	Concentrates on major stories of the Bible repeatedly with centers following multiple intelligences	Workshop units / cycles run for 4-7 weeks	Teachers repeat the same lesson every week of a cycle – on a topic / skill they enjoy	Experiential: art, music, storytelling, drama, computers, movies, etc.	Closely graded or broadly graded, depending on space and number of children	Per unit / cycle: \$15.00 – 150.00 UNDATED

JUNE 2021 CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM OVERVIEWS

CODES:

- Coloring coding: Lavender – Infants/Toddlers; Yellow – Children; Blue – Tweens; Orange – All ages (many including adult)
- ASA = Average Sunday Attendance / AWA = Average Worship Attendance / ACA = Average Children's Attendance

NOTES:

- **Workshop Rotation Model** programs:
 - UMPH's *Deep Blue Rotation Stations* – www.deepbluekids.com/rotation (UMC)
 - LeaderResources' *Workshop Cycles* – www.leaderresources.org/workshopcycles (Episcopal)
 - Sparkhouse's *Spark* or *Whirl* – www.wearsparkwarehouse.org (ELCA)
- **Bible Translations:**
 - NRSV – New Revised Standard Version
 - CEB – Common English Bible
 - CEV – Contemporary English Version
 - TEV – Today's English Version
 - GNB – Good News Bible
 - NKJV / KJV – New King James Version / King James Version
 - NLT – New Living Translation (paraphrased)
 - NIV – New International Version
 - ESV – English Standard Version
- **Prices** may change after date this listing was compiled
- The chart shown here does not comprise a complete listing of all curricula published across the denominational spectrum, but those that have come to the attention of its compiler and fit the criteria of having a lesson plan for a leader/teacher.

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING CURRICULUM:

- How does the program support your church's mission statement?
- What type of curriculum is best for my church and/or children? (Lectionary, workshop rotation, story-based, Montessori, etc.)
- How are sacraments taught / covered? Is this in keeping with my denomination's tradition?
- How is Jesus portrayed? God? The Holy Spirit? Is this in keeping with my denomination's tradition?
- What is the theological perspective of the publisher (especially for independent or non-denominational publishers)? Read the fine print on their websites!
- How are children incorporated into the life of the congregation: through worship, service projects, faith-in-action, fellowship?

Seeking more?

- There are many, many more Sunday School curricula from the American Baptist tradition and the International Sunday School Lesson (ISSL) Uniform Series. This website gives an overview, with links, to many of them while also including a few that are listed on the above chart: <https://betterbibleteachers.com/2017/06/mega-list-of-64-sunday-school-curriculum-providers-and-what-you-can-expect-from-each-one-of-them/>
- For reviews of Vacation Bible School programs, please visit: <https://www.buildfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-VBS.pdf>
- For updated overviews of curricula for children, youth, and adults and more in-depth reviews, see www.rowsofsharon.com.
- For more information or questions regarding this chart contact Sharon Ely Pearson sharonepearson@gmail.com

Publisher Statements of Faith / Theological Perspectives (imprints under publishing house)

- 1517 Media: <https://1517.media>
 - Augsburg Fortress: <https://www.augsburgfortress.org/info/about/>
 - Beaming Books: <https://www.beamingbooks.com/info/about/>
 - Sparkhouse: <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/info/about/>
- Bible Reading Fellowship: <https://www.biblereading.org/about.htm>
- Bible Study Media: <https://biblestudymedia.com/pages/about-bible-study-media>
 - New Growth Press: <https://newgrowthpress.com/what-we-believe/>
- Brethren Press: <http://www.brethren.org/about/> and <https://shinecurriculum.com/about/what-is-shine/>
 - MennoMedia: <https://mennomedia.org/About.html>
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: <https://www.cgsusa.org/discover/faq/>
- The Center for Progressive Christianity: <https://progressivechristianity.org/about-us/>
- Church Publishing Incorporated (CPI): <https://www.churchpublishing.org/aboutus>
 - Morehouse
 - Morehouse Education Resources
 - Church Publishing
- Concordia Publishing House (CPH): <https://about.cph.org/our-philosophy.html>
- Curriculum Development Associates: <https://mustardseedseries.com/about/>
- David C. Cook: <https://davidccook.org>
 - Gospel Light: <https://www.gospellight.com/statement-faith/>
 - Standard: <https://www.standardpub.com/our-company/#statement-of-faith>
- Faith Alive: <https://www.faithaliveresources.org/Pages/About/About-Us.aspx>
- Forward Movement: <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/About/Our-Ministry.aspx>
- GenOn Ministries: <https://www.genonministries.org/pages/our-story>
- Group Publishing: <https://www.group.com/category/about-us/statement-of-faith.do>
 - The re-Think Group (Orange): <https://www.group.com/category/about-us/statement-of-faith.do>
 - Standard: <https://www.group.com/category/about-us/statement-of-faith.do>
- LeaderResources: https://www.leaderresources.org/About-Us_ep_7.html
- Presbyterian Publishing Corporation: <http://www.ppcbooks.com/our-history>
 - Flyaway Books: <https://www.flyawaybooks.com>
 - Westminster/John Knox Press: <https://www.wjkbooks.com/Pages/Item/1323/About-Us.aspx>
- Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (PRAY): <https://www.praypub.org/history> and <https://www.praypub.org/denominations>
- Progressive Christianity: <https://progressivechristianity.org/the-8-points/>
- Randall House: www.randallhouse.com/doctrinal-statement
- Seedlings, Incorporated: <http://www.seedlingsinc.com/about-seedlings.html>
- Spirit & Truth Publishing: <https://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/faith-formation/>

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- The Sunday Paper (Gretchen Wolff Prichard): <http://www.the-sunday-paper.com/id15.html>
- StoryMakers NYC: <https://www.storymakersnyc.com/mission> with support of Mockingbird Ministries: <https://mbird.com>
- United Methodist Publishing House (UMPH): <https://www.umph.org/Our-Mission>
 - Abingdon Press: <https://www.abingdonpress.com/about/>
 - *Note:* Cokesbury is a book/curriculum distributor associated with the United Methodist Publishing House that distributes curricula from a wide variety of publishers <https://www.cokesbury.com/about-cokesbury>
- Virginia Theological Seminary (Episcopal): <https://www.vts.edu/about/mission>
- Wood Lake Publishers: https://www.woodlakebooks.com/about_us/