

Linked by Love

Reviewed by Meg Jones

Linked by Love: Snapshot



[Linked by Love](#) is one of Building Faith's top picks for 2024. It is a curriculum designed for summer camp with age-appropriate material for elementary children as well as middle and high school youth. It also offers resources and ideas for tailoring the curriculum to intergenerational groups and retreats, and it can be used for VBS with grades 1–5. Its theme focuses on how children and youth can discern God's love at work in their lives and in their relationships with others. It features a variety of activities, like games, art, science, journaling, and worship, as well as take-home sheets and a Spotify music playlist.

Linked by Love: The Basics

- **Theme:** We Are All Linked by Love
- **Publisher:** Chalice Press, 2023 (Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, produced by a multi-denominational protestant team)
- **Intended ages/grades:** grades 1 – 12 as well as intergenerational groups
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 7
- **Types of activities:** lessons, worship, games, art, science, small group devotions, journaling
- **Cost:** \$395 (congregations may also be able to receive access through a local camp center; you can contact the publisher for more info)

Linked by Love: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: Linked in Love**
Colossians 3:12–14
- **Day 2: Linked through Acceptance**
Luke 10:38–42
- **Day 3: Linked and Present**
Job 2:11–13
- **Day 4: Linked by Grace**
Luke 15:11–32

Linked by Love: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 5: Linked in Truth**
Exodus 18:5–24
- **Day 6: Linked to Change**
Philemon 1:8–17
- **Day 7: Linked to Love**
1 John 4:7–9, 19

Linked by Love: Where It Shines

Emphasis on community

This curriculum shows great examples of how we can learn, grow, and change in community by helping kids and youth engage the community they are in during the program week. The practices that Linked by Love teaches, like acceptance, grace, and loving one another, are easy to make concrete and applicable for kids or youth over multiple days at VBS or camp. People of all ages can also easily remember and take these practices home.

Helpful and inclusive theological grounding

The writers have provided great theological backgrounds for each Bible story. The background content also makes helpful connections back to camp. The curriculum also uses inclusive language for God. Additionally, with its multi-denominational approach, it has the flexibility to incorporate specific theological commitments from different church contexts into the lessons.

Linked by Love: Where It Shines

Variety of activities to promote learning in different ways

Linked by Love seems to be well rounded. It offers a lot of ways to learn the lessons, including through play and games. It also lends itself well to teaching youth to lead the small group sessions.

Adaptable for multiple settings and denominational contexts

The curriculum gives suggestions on how to combine the seven sessions into three or four. It could work well as a weekly program for a church season. It also includes intergenerational lesson plans.

Linked by Love: What We Miss

More tips for large group settings

While the curriculum offers ideas for various uses and settings, most of the content seems geared toward smaller groups, which is fitting for a camp setting. However, additional guidance on using the curriculum in large group gatherings would be helpful. For programs involving large groups, leaders may need to adapt or get creative with some of the content.

A community service opportunity

This curriculum does not include a specific service project for participants to do. However, it would be easy to connect a service opportunity that your church is involved in with the Linked by Love theme.

**Linked by
Love: Overall
Assessment**

**Curriculum
Recommended
for 2024**

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