

Living God's Dream

Reviewed by Sarah Bentley Allred

Living God's Dream: Snapshot



[Living God's Dream: Dismantling Racism for Children](#)

is a flexible faith formation curriculum that can be used as VBS or in other contexts. Grounded in scripture, the curriculum aims to help children root themselves in their own belovedness and practice seeking the image of God in others. The curriculum offers five topics, and each lesson includes enough content for multiple sessions if desired. Lessons include a biblical connection, storybook, art activity, music, snack, and service idea.

Living God's Dream: The Basics

- **Theme:** “Living God’s Dream: Dismantling Racism for Children”
- **Publisher & date:** [Church Publishing](#), 2024 ([The Episcopal Church](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** pre-K – grade 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 5
- **Types of activities:** Bible reading, storybook ideas, personal story, art, music, games, snack, service
- **Cost:** \$49.95 for leader guide, \$14.95 for participant guide

Living God's Dream: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: I Am Beloved**
Genesis 1:27–28, Revelation 7:9
- **Day 2: I Am Brave**
Genesis 37, 41—45
- **Day 3: I Am Compassionate**
Ruth 1:16–18, 2:11–12
- **Day 4: I Am Resistant**
Daniel 1
- **Day 5: I Am Ready**
James 2:1–4, 8–9, 14–17

Living God's Dream: Where It Shines

Addressing the important topic of racism in an age-appropriate way

Children are highly attuned to justice and fairness, yet very few mainline Protestant resources directly address racism in a way developmentally appropriate for children as young as preschool. Living God's Dream offers a much-needed resource for this work.

Solid grounding in scripture

This curriculum is grounded in scripture from the overall theme, "living God's dream," to the biblical stories used in each session. Concepts are repeated again and again using different activities to build not just awareness, but the ability to analyze and apply.

Living God's Dream: Where It Shines

Integration of children's literature

Most lessons have three or more storybook suggestions. For each book, there is an overview for the leader, summary of how it connects to the lesson, statement to use to introduce the book, discussion prompts, and statement to use to wrap up the discussion.

Living God's Dream: What We Miss

Acknowledgment of systemic racism

This curriculum emphasizes individual relationships and personal interactions. Some of the suggested children's literature touches on systemic racism, but it is not directly addressed. If working with upper elementary aged children, we recommend considering how to address the idea of unfair systems and our call to work together as the full community of faith to move toward God's dream.

Not a "full featured" VBS

This resource is designed for flexible usage rather than directly designed as a VBS. If you're looking for a full featured curriculum that comes out of the box with decorations you can purchase and music videos, you may want to consider other options.

**Living God's
Dream:
Overall
Assessment**

**A curriculum that
helps children
root themselves
in belovedness
and seek the
image of God
in others**