

Curriculum Overview Chart of Popular Resources

Curriculum Resource (lectionary , Bible-story-based , both , other)	Website	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation or Purpose Statement	Content	Format(s)	Ages	AUCE's UCC-Friendly Rating (1 = most UCC-friendly; 5 = least UCC-friendly)
<p>Bible Story-Based Each session presents a different Bible story that follows a seasonal theme such as heroes of the Old Testament, the parables of Jesus or the birth of Jesus, for instance. These may or may not be the same story for each age level, in order to accommodate developmental differences.</p> <p>Lectionary-Based The Revised Common Lectionary (https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu) is a listing of scripture readings for each Sunday which covers much of the Bible over the course of three years. Lectionary curriculum materials allow worshippers and learners of all ages to experience the same scripture(s), at their own developmental level, at the same time. The Bible passage that is the focus for worship is the same one being studied in Sunday School and Bible Study.</p>							
Celebrate Wonder	https://www.cokesburykids.com/curriculum~celebrate-wonder	Cokesbury Kids (Methodist)	Engages children's natural sense of curiosity to help them understand God's love.	Print or digital download; optional Bible storybook	Opening, Bible story, Activities, Closing	Ages 3 to 12 with suggestions for adapting to age groups, One-room, & Large or Small Groups	2
Christian Practices Learning Program	https://www.lifelongfaith.com/christian-practices-programs.html	Lifelong Faith Associates (Ecumenical, Catholic)	Christian practices form the essential content for discipleship and faith growth in Christian community.	10 Practices: Caring for the Body, Celebrating, Discernment, Eating Well, Forgiveness, Keeping Sabbath, Managing Household Life, Participating in Community, Prayer, Reading the Bible	Downloadable sessions that include reproducible activity sheets for 10 Christian practices	Flexible for intergenerational ministries, families, & age groups; each session also includes 4 children's activities	2
Deep Blue	https://www.cokesburykids.com/curriculum~deep-blue-digital-bundles and https://www.cokesburykids.com/curriculum~deep-blue-nursery	Cokesbury Kids (Methodist)	To reach, empower, and equip children, and those who care for them, with grace-based resources that help them on the journey to understand themselves as children of God, explore and deepen their relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and love and serve God and neighbor.	Rotation Stations, One Room Sunday School, Large Group / Small Group, and Kids Church. <i>Deep Blue Kids Bible</i> , video DVDs, music CD; downloadable .PDFs & streamable video	Various	Nursery (babies & toddlers) and elementary-age children	2
Faith For Life Bible Study	https://www.genonministries.org/intergenerational-Bible-studies	GenOn Ministries (Ecumenical)	Acts 2:42: ministering to all generations through teaching, fellowship, & worship.	Undated, permanent materials with the goal of comprehensive Bible knowledge & application skills	Downloadable sessions that include take-home materials for families to use	Broadly graded (up to 3 grades may be combined) for Kindergarten through 8th Grade	2



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Feasting On the Word	https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/14709/Feasting-on-the-Word-Curriculum.aspx	Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (Protestant)	By intentional connection of worship & faith formation, leaders and learners will find their faith enhanced when the Scriptures read in worship reinforce & expand what is explored during their educational time.	Incorporates the <i>Feasting On the Word</i> commentary style to explore scripture in age-appropriate ways; <i>Joining the Feast</i> connects learning and worship.	Gathering, Exploring, Responding, Closing	K-2, Gr. 3-4, Tweens, Teens, Adults, Multi-Age (K-Gr. 6)	2
Follow Me	https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/15439/Follow-Me-Curriculum.aspx	Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (Protestant)	As we live faith practices — Jesus' practices and teachings in the Bible — we live into the essence of what makes us Christian.	36 units over 3 years: Art, Activity, Conversation, Drama, Games, Music, Contemplation, Service/ Mission Choose print or download	4 sessions per practice: Getting Started, Introducing the Practice, the Practice in the Bible, the Practice Today, Practicing the Practice, Following Jesus	Young Children (ages 3-5), Multi-Age (ages 6-10), Youth, (ages 11-18), Adult, and worship integration	1
Frolic	https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286738/Frolic	Sparkhouse/ 1517 Media (Lutheran/ ecumenical)	Sparkhouse intentionally collaborates with leaders from multiple denominations to ensure that our resources are theologically sound.	44 mini lessons based on the Frolic First Bible and Frolic books with posters, a music CD, & take-home cards	Story, work with visuals, simple prayer	Separate materials for Nursery (birth-age 2) Preschool (ages 3-5), & Young Families	3
GenOn	https://www.genonministries.org/	GenOn Ministries (Ecumenical)	Acts 2:42: ministering to all generations through teaching, fellowship, & worship.	A variety of choices for your specific needs (refer to this chart for descriptions: https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0177/8392/files/GenOn_Ministries_Resource_Chart.pdf?v=1619725289)	Adaptable for ministries at church, in the home, outdoors, and any time	Intergenerational	2
Godly Play	https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/ and https://www.churchpublishing.org/Search?q=godly+play	Church Publishing (Episcopal)	Making meaning through story, wonder, and play. Nurturing spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children.	Montessori approach for presenting scripture and seasonal, & liturgical stories.	<i>The Complete Guide to Godly Play</i> in 8 volumes, include session plans; training is strongly recommended: https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org/trainings/godly-play-training	All ages, but specifically geared toward preschool-elementary grades	1

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Group	https://www.group.com/	Group Publishing (Protestant)	We believe the Bible is the inspired, authoritative Word of God, in the deity of Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his death on the cross, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, and that people receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life through Jesus.	R.E.A.L.: relational, experiential, applicable, lifelong	https://www.group.com/childrens-ministry/sunday-school/	Toddlers/2's/Preschool, Children, Youth, Women, Adults	4
Growing In God's Love	https://www.pcusastore.com/Pages/Item/13638/Story-Bible-Curriculum.aspx	Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (Presbyterian, Protestant)	Through the stories of the Bible children get to know God, what Jesus did and said, and view themselves as beloved children of God and as members of the faith community.	Sessions based on 148 Bible stories in print or to download for classroom, intergenerational worship, faith at home, and mission/service; uses <i>Growing In God's Love Story Bible</i> written by Elizabeth Caldwell & Carol Wehrheim	Enter sacred space, read & hear scripture story, pause, engage curiosity & imagination, wrestle with their place in God's Story, bless	Multi-age (ages 5-10)	2
Holy Moments (within Cultivate Faith materials)	https://www.prcli.org/cultivate-faith/	Practical Resources for Churches (Ecumenical)	A 501(c)3, non-denominational, education-based service organization providing consultants, webinars, workshops, & resources.	Resources for families at home, and resources for congregations to support families	Downloadable files for families and congregations of examen, discussions, blessings, art, liturgies, family hikes, retreats, service, prayers, parent/caregiver book club	Families	1
Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints	https://www.holytroublemakers.com/curriculum	Watchfire Media	We produce life-affirming educational publications for the religiously progressive...who have children in their lives whom they want to be... committed to love, kindness, courage, & justice.	12-lesson digital companion to the book, licensed for a church/organization of 101 or more members	Each lesson includes coloring pages & focuses on a contemporary "saint" such as Gutierrez, Thich Nhat Hanh, Rumi, and Will Gafney, plus "What Kind of Holy Troublemaker Are You?"	8-14 with options for older & younger participants	1
Illustrated Ministry	www.illustratedministry.com	Illustrated Ministry (Ecumenical, Presbyterian founder)	We celebrate the expansive image of God in everyone, through open and inclusive language, diverse imagery, and progressive theology.	12-week topical focuses to use any time of year; coloring pages & posters	Varies by topic and age group; includes reflection/coloring, micro-practice, prayer, activity; children's bulletins & coloring pages/posters for a variety of uses.	Children, Intergenerational, take-home materials for families	1

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A Joyful Path	https://progressivechristianity.org/childrens-curriculum/	Progressive Christianity (Ecumenical)	Sacredness, wholeness, and unity of all life come from following the way & teachings of Jesus, inclusive of all people, striving for peace & justice through life-long learning.	3 years currently available, 38 sessions each, in print, DVD, and/or digital formats	Spiritual affirmations, Bible quotes, wisdom quotes, movement, art activities, an original story, discussion questions, music, & nature	Ages 6-10	1
Messy Church	https://messychurchusa.org	Bible Reading Fellowship (Church of England)	A way of being church for all ages to experience fun & faith-formative activities together through celebration, creativity, hospitality, and centering in Christ.	<i>Messy Church</i> by Jane Leadbetter includes how-to and 13 session plans	Non-traditional Sunday School involving crafts, worship, and a meal	Intergenerational	2
Picture the Bible	https://picturethebible.org/	First Congregational Church River Falls (United Church of Christ)	Emphasis on biblical texts & issues of social justice.	NOT A CURRICULUM, rather an <i>approach</i> to Bible study with a set of 36 images for 36 Bible stories to be used to foster biblical literacy & interpretation, connecting the Bible with students' lives.	Flexible for a variety of uses (classroom, home, worship, VBS, etc.). Also available: picture books, deck of cards, coloring books, and a CD of images	Preschool, Grades 3-12, Grade 9 to adults, Families	1
Seasons of the Spirit <i>Unfortunately, new materials will no longer be published beginning in the fall of 2023; older materials can still be ordered</i>	www.seasonsonline.ca	Wood Lake Publishing (Multi-denominational / English-speaking United Churches)	Empower all ages to be transformed in Christ - open and inclusive - as they explore the Bible, worship, service, and ministry within the web of Creation.	Sessions based on a Revised Common Lectionary reading using the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible	Multi-media, drama, music, stories, art, outreach & mission with resources for connecting learning and corporate worship	Preschool, Young Children, Older Children, Younger Youth, Older Youth, Adults	1
Sermons4Kids	https://sermons4kids.com	Independent	We believe that...Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation.	Sermons, videos, activity sheets, and boxed curriculum materials	Downloadable files or printed materials to order	Elementary ages	5 [Note: This popular website is included here to offer an example of theology that does not mesh with the UCC's]

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Shine	https://shinecurriculum.com	Brethren Press & MennoMedia (Mennonite)	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; print or digital; <i>The Peace Table</i> ; <i>A Storybook Bible</i> available 6/2/23.	Storytelling, wonder questions, leaflet projects, drama, music, prayer, service project ideas, peacemaking, & spiritual practices; also Shine At Home materials & VBS & all-ages worship resources.	Wee Wonder for 2's; Pre-K (starting at age 3), Elementary, & Junior Youth (to Grade 8); Generation Why for teens, as well as materials for intergenerational	1
Sparkhouse	https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/	1517 Media (Lutheran/ecumenical)	Sparkhouse intentionally collaborates with leaders from multiple denominations to ensure that our resources are theologically sound.	Early childhood: Frolic Children: Spark-Activate Faith, Whirl, Holy Moly, Connect Teens: Re:form, Echo the Story, Colaborate (choose confirmation materials for either Lutheran, Methodist, or Presbyterian), T.B.D. (think, believe, do), Wholeness & Holiness Adults: Animate, Dialogues On	Various (lectionary, Bible-story-based, rotation, multi-age)	Early childhood (birth to age 5), Children (age 2 to Grade 6) , Youth (Grades 5-12), Adults (small group resources)	3
Spill the Beans	https://www.spillthebeans.org.uk/	Scottish Bible Society (Crowd-sourced)	We believe story is the lifeblood of faith.	Magazine-style materials for leaders; 4 issues/year with unlimited copying permission; utilizes different lectionaries each year - uses the Narrative Lectionary & has Revised Common Lectionary materials available	Tell the Story / Explore the Story / Live the Story & worship; free videos; collaborates with Fischy Music (www.fischy.com); intergenerational communion liturgies	“Worship & learning resources for all ages”	2
Spirit & Truth	https://spiritandtruthpublishing.com/	Spirit & Truth Publishing (Lutheran founder)	We focus on what unites us, not what divides us. We view the Bible as inspired by God, the story of God's love for humanity, without reading it literally, & giving dignity to all people in God's love. (https://www.sneucc.org/files/websites/sne/Theological-Guidelines-Spirit-Truth-Publishing.pdf)	Units/lessons for the Narrative Lectionary, Revised Common Lectionary, Bible-story-based, Topical Units, VBS, Confirmation, Cross-Generational, & Worship Education	All digital downloads	Pre-K to Grade 2, Grades to 6, Teens, Cross-Generational	1

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Teach Sunday School	https://teachsundayschool.com/	Mary Kate Warner (Protestant)	We believe it is the church's responsibility to help bring children to a powerful understanding of, and trust in, God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through dedicated and meaningful teaching.	A website of lesson plans, Bible printable, Bible games, Bible crafts, adult Bible studies, other tools, and Christian parenting resources	Digital downloads to assemble into one's program as needed; Spanish versions available	Materials for toddlers & preschoolers, elementary children, tweens, & teens, and adults	5 [Note: This popular website is included here to offer an example of theology that does not mesh with the UCC's]
Teen Text	https://progressivechristianity.org/?s=teen+text&sv=phrase	Progressive Christianity (Ecumenical)	Helps older youth connect the text on the page with events in their daily lives.	3 years currently available for lectionary years A, B, & C	Guides students into the text through a series of open-ended, text-related questions, with opportunities for student leadership. Includes links to movie clips, YouTube videos, classical and contemporary art, music, and poetry.	Grades 6-12	1
Wee Wonder	https://www.mennomedia.org/9780836195507/wee-wonder-boxed-set/	Brethren Press & MennoMedia (Mennonite)	Calls children to experience the transforming power of God's love, including compassionate peacemaking and service.	52 undated sessions, reusable each year	Boxed set includes leader's guide, Bible Story Picture Sheet, music CD, & 12 Bible Activity Card packets (one for each module - purchase a set for each child to take home)	Age 2	1
Workshop Rotation	www.rotation.org Deep Blue (Methodist): https://www.cokesbury.com/curriculum-children-deep-blue-rotation-stations Workshop Cycles (Episcopal): https://www.leaderresources.org/Rotation-Workshop-Curriculum_c_22.html Spark Rotation (Lutheran): https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286790/Spark-Rotation	Various (Presbyterian founder)	We believe in creativity and in serving the needs of children.	Teaching one major Bible story at a time for 4-5 weeks in a row by "rotating" classes through a variety of creative "workshop" learning experiences. Workshop units / cycles run for 4-7 weeks; Teachers repeat the same lesson (workshop) every week of a cycle on a preferred topic/skill while the students attend a different workshop (on the same Bible story) - for better retention) each week.	Workshops (lessons) are experiential: art, music, storytelling, drama, computers, movies, etc.	Flexible groups of children	2

****Most publishers offer free samples to download****

Disclaimer

Due to the amount of information available (and hidden) on publisher's websites, this chart cannot be considered to be definitive. Your congregation's and your own personal/professional opinions about curriculum materials may differ from what appears here. "AUCE's UCC-Friendly Ratings" are based on the United Church of Christ's inclusive, welcoming, diversity, peace & justice, and open & affirming focuses.

Updated 06/2024

Please contact AUCE at info@auce-ucc.org if you find any inaccuracies that need to be corrected.