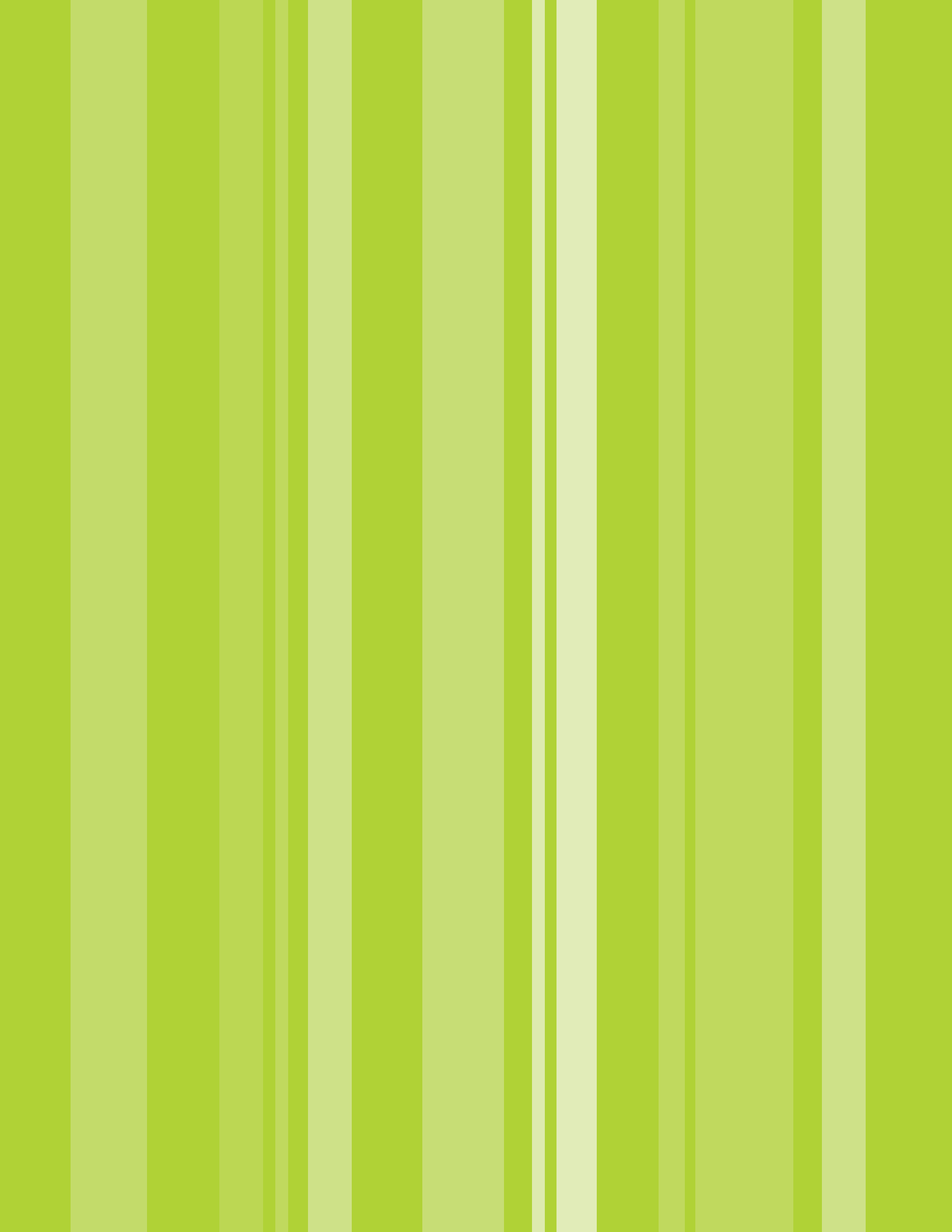




Curriculum at a Glance

Curriculum Programs from
The United Church of Canada



Curriculum Programs

from The United Church of Canada

This booklet is a summary of the curriculum programs recommended by The United Church of Canada. The programs have been organized by curriculum models. You'll also find tips to help you select a curriculum that works best for your congregation.

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Age Level/Grading

- Preschool to adult with age- and grade-specific resources
- Multi-age resources for kindergarten—Grade 6

Description

- Bible story-based with a weekly Faith Focus
- Texts chosen with church seasons in mind
- Attends to four areas of church life: community, worship, education, and mission
- Teaches children the language and practices of the Christian faith
- Uses wondering questions to invite a response from the children
- Uses traditional teacher/learner model

Unique Features

- Online quarterly newsletter for teachers
- Strong connection is made between church and home
- Caregiver Guide is suitable for class or individual use, assisting adults in reflecting on the same scriptures as the children and exploring ways to be part of the children's faith formation

Terms/Sessions per Term

- Based on a four-year Bible outline
- Four quarters per year
- Thirteen sessions per quarter

Theme

- Fall quarters are devoted to a chronological study of the Old Testament
- Winter and spring quarters are devoted to the New Testament, each year focusing on a particular gospel
- Advent and Lenten themes covered each year
- Summer quarters have specific topics and themes

Music

- Music CD is available, with new music, international music, and familiar favourites

Leader Resources

- Detailed Teacher's Guide provides Bible Insights, age-level teaching tips, information on multiple intelligences, and learning styles
- E-updates are available quarterly
- *Gather 'Round Handbook* contains articles and tips for leaders, ministers, and parents

Class Kits/Learner Resources

- Class Kits include posters, maps, teaching pictures, attendance charts, contemporary connection materials
- Individual student books provide activities and stories

Links to Worship/Service

- No specific links made to weekly worship
- Language and habits of worship modelled through prayer, silence, music, and ritual
- Response ideas are often linked to caring for and serving others

Enrichment/Companion Pieces

- Each family can receive Talkabout, an in-home tabletop resource that provides tips for applying weekly Bible themes in daily life

Other Considerations

- A joint endeavour with Canadian and American denominations, providing awareness of Canadian context
- Student books, class packs, teacher guides, music CDs, and at-home resources can be purchased separately



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-age• Suggested for preschool through Grade 6
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the Montessori method of learning• Careful telling of biblical stories using beautifully crafted story figures• Includes stories to highlight the seasons of the church year• Emphasis on the spiritual lives and needs of children• Helps children learn “religious language”
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a liturgical format in each session• Includes a time for “wondering” when children are invited to engage in theological response to the story• Allows for an individual response to stories• Emphasizes developing a community of children• Roles of adults include storyteller and door person
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Six volumes of stories each with 12–15 stories• Determine the sequence of stories that best fits your setting
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parables• Liturgical Actions• Sacred Stories• Stories of 12 saints• Enrichment stories of the People of God
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No music resources included
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes comprehensive and detailed information for leading each session• Tips on room set-up, supplies and materials, classroom management, parent communications
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No class kits• Story figures can be purchased or handmade
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stories are based on the church year• Individual and community response is emphasized
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training opportunities are offered across North America• Support volumes include <i>How to Lead Godly Play Lessons</i>, <i>Practical Helps from Godly Play Trainers</i>, and <i>Teaching Godly Play: How to Mentor the Spiritual Development of Children</i>• Parent Pages available for take home
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Because the stories are told using a particular method and with specific story figures, it is helpful for storytellers to receive training• Stories and materials are used year after year

Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Multi-age with specific activities for younger and older children
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bible story-based: three-year planned coverage of major stories• Offers a lesson overview for each session• Each session has four sections with multiple options. The four sections are Start Here; Open Your Bible; Live God's Word; Respond to the Bible message• Suitable for small groups, children ages 3–12 in a single classroom
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each activity provides a listing of resources, supplies needed to complete it• Provides helps for substitute teachers• Offers prayer, thought to integrate experience with the theme for the day
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four quarters per year: Fall (Sep-Nov), Winter (Dec-Feb), Spring (Mar-May), Summer (Jun-Aug)• Each lesson is dated
Theme (2010-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fall: Judges and Kings, A United Kingdom, Stories from Exile• Winter: Advent–Christmas, Stories Jesus Told, Teachings of Jesus• Spring: Lent–Easter, Good News Travels Fast• Summer: Feasts and Festivals, Women of the Bible, Peacemakers
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CD and music included in Class Kit• Songs easy to sing
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offers detailed lesson plans, teacher helps• Crafts require preparation before class• Choices for activities usually based on reading ability• Age-specific activities as well as activities for all ages• Extra leader guides are available
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bright teaching pictures, group games, posters, maps, and more• Reproducible, photocopy-ready take-home pages; story and activity sheets• Quarterly kit includes one leader guide, class kit, and all necessary resources
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebrates the church seasons• Offers prayers, litanies, songs, stories that could be used in worship
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommends additional books for leaders and children
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is possible to use <i>Rock Solid</i> (see facing page) for some age groups, since the scope and sequence is the same as <i>One Room Sunday School</i>



Age Level/Grading

- Preschool (ages 3–4), Early Elem (K–Grade 1), Middle Elem (Grades 2–3), Older Elem (Grades 4–5) and “Tweens” (Grades 6–7)

Description

- Bible story-based: three-year planned coverage of major stories
- “Tween” level is a two-year Bible survey
- Each lesson has four sections with multiple options: Arrival Fun; Bible Time; Live God’s Word; Worship

Unique Features

- “Quick Teach” activities are flagged in each lesson for those with less class time, less prep time, or less supplies available
- There is an optional pack of craft and puzzle activities for each age level

Terms/Sessions per Term

- Four quarters per year: Fall (Sep–Nov), Winter (Dec–Feb), Spring (Mar–May), Summer (Jun–Aug)
- Each lesson is dated

Theme (2010-11)

- Fall: Judges and Kings, A United Kingdom, Stories from Exile
- Winter: Advent–Christmas, Stories Jesus Told, Teachings of Jesus
- Spring: Lent–Easter, Good News Travels Fast
- Summer: Feasts and Festivals, Women of the Bible, Peacemakers
- Tween resources have different themes

Music

- Annual music CD is available separately
- Songbook is included in the class kit for lower age groups

Leader Resources

- Offers detailed lessons plans, leader helps, and background
- Crafts require preparation before class; each activity provides listing of supplies needed
- Choices for activities include self-directed activities as well as group activities

Class Kits/Learner Resources

- For each age level there is a core learner piece plus optional craft and/or puzzle packs
- The resource kit contains colourful games, posters, and class activities

Links to Worship/Service

- Celebrates the church seasons
- Encourages children to pray for others
- Offers some service projects

Enrichment/Companion Pieces

- There are optional drama, puzzle, and music resources available

Other Considerations

- Leaders find this resource well-laid out and easy to use
- It includes lessons for “Tweens”
- A congregation can use *One Room Sunday School* (see facing page) for the summer term if classes are smaller, and still follow the same Bible coverage plan



Age Level/Grading

- Age 2–3, PreK–K, Gr 1–2, Gr 3–4, Gr 5–6

Description

- Children explore their faith through a variety of activities
- Children open their Bibles and engage God's Word in each lesson
- The fresh language in the read-aloud *Spark* story Bible, the vibrant artwork, and the intentional questions encourage children to connect the stories to their own lives
- Bible story-based: two-year planned coverage of key Old Testament and New Testament stories

Unique Features

- Key Learner piece is a colourful story Bible for age 2–Gr 2, and an NRSV study Bible for Grade 3–6 with age-appropriate helps, stickers, and discussion
- Equips leaders with a lesson preparation DVD (5 min or less) for each lesson to help them understand the story and how it will be heard by their age level, online forums to share ideas, and lesson flexibility

Terms/Sessions per Term

- 40 lessons per year, in three semesters (fall, winter, and spring)
- Undated

Theme

- Old Testament stories are presented in the fall and New Testament stories in the winter and spring. Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost stories are included in each year

Music

- Music CD and songbook are available
- Songs are familiar and easy to sing

Leader Resources

- Leader resources include an easy-to-use teacher guide and a lesson preparation DVD. Children are encouraged to learn through interactive games, creative art projects, and music

Class Kits/Learner Resources

- There is no class kit to buy
- Learners use the *Spark* Bibles plus colourful learner resources that include puzzles, faith-at-home activities, stickers, and scripture learning

Links to Worship/Service

- Worship ideas encourage other forms of prayer (with body movement, silence, prayer for self and others)

Enrichment/Companion Pieces

- Leader guides can be downloaded and customized from the *Spark* website
- Additional activities, games, and take-home pages are available on CD or web

Other Considerations

- Families can read aloud at home from the *Spark* story Bible
- The *Spark* NRSV Bible encourages children in Grades 3–6 to begin reading the Bible, and contains age-appropriate commentary and questions for reflection



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All ages, preschool–adults• Multi-age pack for ages 5–12• “Seasons Growing Faith” resources for ministry with infants and toddlers
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a variety of learning styles and media• Extends the learning experience into congregational life and worship, the home setting, and daily life• All ages explore the same focus passage each week• User-friendly session plans for leaders
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent use of visual arts• Data CD in Congregational Life resource includes graphics of posters for projection and text resources for printing in bulletins• Strong integration of learning, worship, and service• All materials available as a printed resource, a digital resource on disk, or an online digital resource
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specifically dated lessons: follows The Revised Common Lectionary• 13 sessions per quarter• Resources available in four quarters: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany; Lent, Easter; Pentecost 1; Pentecost 2
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommends a variety of translations of the Bible• Three-year cycle (A, B, C) follows The Revised Common Lectionary• Themes arise from lectionary readings
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optional annual music CD• Printed music included in all age levels• Music features songs from around the world• Song lyrics available on CD and website
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly session outlines with biblical background and reproducible resource sheets• Coordinator Package contains all age-level sessions on a disk• Audio CD and musical scores included
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reproducible pages within leader resource• Resources for five age groups (3–5, 6–8, 9–11, 12–14, 15–18) and Adult
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ideas to create art for church and to engage in mission projects
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly online resources• Annual DVD with introductory and seasonal leadership preparation materials• Online supplement for leading sessions with three-year-olds• Storytelling figures for younger age levels
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stories may be for one week or may extend over several weeks• Leader training materials included



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ages 2–12
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on the three-year Revised Common Lectionary Children explore their faith through a variety of activities Children open their Bibles and engage God's Word in each lesson The fresh language in the read-aloud <i>Spark</i> story Bible, the vibrant artwork, and the intentional questions encourage children to connect the stories to their own lives
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key learner piece is a colourful story Bible for ages 2–Grade 2, and an NRSV study Bible for Grade 3–6 with age-appropriate helps, stickers, and discussion Equips leaders with a lesson preparation DVD (5 min or less) for each lesson to help them understand the story and how it will be heard by their age level, online forums to share ideas, and lesson flexibility
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dated: Fall, Winter, and Spring quarters cover September to Pentecost
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each week the Bible story comes from the OT Reading, the Gospel, or Acts reading for the day, according to The Revised Common Lectionary. Lessons are provided for both paired and semi-continuous readings
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music CD and songbook are available Songs are familiar and easy to sing
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader resources include an easy-to-use leader guide and a lesson preparation DVD. Children are encouraged to learn through interactive games, creative art projects, and music
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no class kit to buy Learners use the <i>Spark</i> Bibles plus colourful learner resources that include puzzles, faith-at-home activities, stickers, and scripture learning
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps children identify actions of service and discipleship Provides background and understanding for children of the readings used in worship
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leader guides can be downloaded and customized from the <i>Spark</i> website Additional activities, games, take-home pages are available on CD or web
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families can read aloud at home from the <i>Spark</i> story Bible The <i>Spark</i> NRSV Bible encourages children in Grades 3–6 to begin reading the Bible and contains age-appropriate commentary and questions for reflection



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Session materials for ages 3–18 provided in five age-level resources for September–May (Units 1–6)• Multi-age Pak for summer months
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An updated version of an old favourite, available online• Downloadable for an annual fee based on congregational size• Lectionary-based, all ages consider the same biblical texts each week• User-friendly leader instructions• Simple activities that use readily available supplies
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online; you download only what you need• Biblical background resource prepares leaders and ministers• Suggests ways to incorporate children into the worshipping congregation• Charlie the Church Mouse puppet helps to tell the stories
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lessons follow The Revised Common Lectionary• From 11 to 15 sessions per quarter
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Three-year cycle (A, B, C) follows The Revised Common Lectionary• Themes drawn from lectionary readings
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes annual music CD and Songbook from <i>Seasons of the Spirit</i> (see page 9)
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple weekly lesson plan sheets• Comprehensive biblical background for each lesson• Overview and planning notes for Units 1–6
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All age-level sessions include activity and resource sheets for learners• Activities address different learning styles
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Weekly theme conversation and hymn suggestions• Weekly sample worship outline with prayers, responses, and drama ideas• Includes some intergenerational resources
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sets of printed coloured teaching pictures for all ages for each session• Weekly electronic “tip of the week” newsletter• Subscribers have access to all of the resources
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reasonable pricing is based on congregation size• Activity suggestions usually use readily available supplies• Canadian content

Workshop Rotation Model



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preschool through Grade 6 (ages 3–12)
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use with a Workshop Rotation Model™ program• Based on Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences• Children can be grouped by age or there are activities suitable for all ages together
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses unique learning approaches and workshop models• Each unit includes Congregational Connections resource• Emphasizes children’s gifts and varying learning needs• Honours all people and cultures through language, music, and art
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each unit has a theme with several different workshops• Weeks per unit flexible due to diverse activities
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 30 units available• Hebrew Scripture Stories (12 units)• Christmas (4 units)• Easter (4 units)• Jesus’ Ministry (10 units)• The Early Church (4 units)
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music CDs, print music, and reproducible lyrics
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leader training workshop for each unit• Bible background• Music CD• Colourful teaching visuals• Set-up suggestions and materials list for eight learning centres per unit
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No separate kits• Some reproducible learner resources
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reproducible unit newsletter for the whole congregation• Includes litanies, liturgical activities, and suggestions to connect congregational worship to children’s learning
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinator’s planning guide
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Guide provides useful foundations as well as leadership training outlines, scope and sequence chart, start-up information, and bibliography• This educational model benefits from having a knowledgeable and dedicated program coordinator

The terms Rotation Model™ and Workshop Rotation Model™ are copyrighted by the www.rotation.org website.



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For ages 2–12
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For use with a Workshop Rotation Model™ program• Based on Gardner’s Theory of Multiple Intelligences• Can also be used in graded classrooms or one-room school formats• Each unit has five Bible stories around one theme• Each story can be explored for up to four weeks, so each unit can be used for 10–20 weeks
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ten “Deeper Learning” options engage learners through art, computers, music, puppets, science, videos, storytelling, games, food, and drama• Allows for leader creativity as leaders choose from learning activities based on needs of children and their own gifts• Each session helps children think about what the story might mean in their own lives and what responses their church is making to the issues raised
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each unit has an overall theme and five related stories• Weeks per unit flexible due to diverse activities
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most Certainly True! Living the Catechism• Circle of Seasons: Living the Church Year• Kingdom Stories: Learning Jesus’ Parables• Wonder Stories: Learning Jesus’ Miracles
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Firelight II</i> produces a music CD suggested as a take-home resource for each child• No words or music provided for leader use
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information guide for leaders of each age level with a general curriculum description, experiential learning information, and a description of age-level characteristics• Print resources including background information, session plans, and teaching visuals• CD-ROM with activity and take-home pages
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resources for five different levels of children ages 2–12, to be purchased separately• Reproducible pages for individual activities or take-home pages
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No explicit links to worship; creating art, dramas, or songs for worship is encouraged
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fine art posters—a set of six for each unit• Some units have additional learners’ materials
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This rich resource is best used when a coordinator helps teachers choose appropriate “Deeper Learning” methods• Very versatile curriculum• For computer workshop, leaders must source the CD-ROMS

Workshop Rotation Model



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elementary age• Multi-graded• Separate activities for younger and older children
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop Rotation Model™ based on Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences• Uses inclusive language for God and humankind• Better use of leaders' gifts and better understanding of children's needs• Uses experiential learning and repetition so children will know the stories• Adaptable to any size of program
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshops included: music, art, computer, games, movement, cookery, science, storytelling, and video
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eight workshops (sessions) per unit plus materials for weekly Gathering Times and a final review session
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over 50 units available• Living God's Word units provide strong life application and character education emphases• Into the Bible units focus on biblical stories• Lent• Easter• Pentecost• Christmas
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Includes a music CD, overhead song sheets, and music sheets for both the Gathering Time and the Music workshop
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extensive materials for the "director"• Very good background information for each session• Leader training materials• Materials for "shepherds"
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A—all materials can be photocopied
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No specific resources to use in congregational worship• Many units include activities and ideas for serving others• Many units include activities and projects for children to present in worship
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Director's Manual• New Shepherd Manual for some units• CD-ROMs and programs for computer workshops will need to be purchased separately
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lots of materials; leaders will need to make choices on what will work best for their participants• Friendly learning environments utilized



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preschool, lower and upper elementary, and all ages (K–Grade 6)
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each unit helps children engage a rich Bible story, group of stories, or Bible character using multiple intelligences • Children spend more than one week on each story, exploring the story from new perspectives • Workshop ideas include art, Bible skills and games, computer lab, cooking, creative drama, music, science, and video
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key learner piece is a colourful Story Bible for ages 2–Grade 2, and an NRSV study Bible for Grades 3–6 with age-appropriate helps, stickers, and discussion • The “All Kids” option makes this suitable for smaller Sunday school groups
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are eight workshops provided in each story unit • Congregations choose from available units including seasonal ones
Theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 48 stories available, including Old Testament stories and characters, Christmas, Holy Week, and Easter stories, parables, early church stories, and important characteristics such as Love, Fruits of the Spirit
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music CD and songbook are available • Songs are familiar and easy to sing
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All leader resources are contained in one reproducible book • Reproducible guides for workshop leaders, “shepherd” and large group openings • Preschoolers experience an in-room rotation
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no class kit to buy • Learners use the <i>Spark</i> Bibles
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children learn and remember the foundational stories of faith, so that they can participate in worship with understanding
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader guides can be downloaded and customized from the <i>Spark</i> website • Additional activities, games, take-home pages, and lesson preparation videos are available on the website
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different workshop ideas explore varying aspects of the story or theme rather than retell the same story • Provides flexible learning that engages children and honours the ways they learn



Age Level/Grading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate components for all age groups from young children to adults (ages 35 and over), as well as multi-age (ages 5–14) and intergenerational (all ages)
Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources for worship, learning, and serving on 24 Faith Practices Resources on four practices of faith will become available each year for 6 years Practices are grouped in 12 circles; each circle visited twice in the series Will be available for churches to use in September 2010
Unique Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twelve components, specific to age level or context in the life of a congregation: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Worship, Music, Art, and Story; 2. Adults; 3. Seekers and New Church Participants; 4. Young Adults; 5. Older Youth; 6. Youth; 7. Older Children; 8. Young Children; 9. Multi-age and Intergenerational; 10. Living Practices in Daily Lives; 11. Workshop Rotation; 12. Denomination Identity and History
Terms/Sessions per Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each component provides activities for up to 12 weeks of study, but congregations may choose to use <i>Faith Practices</i> for time blocks of 4–6 weeks Each week leaders may choose from 9 activities which help learners engage in practising our faith, normally choosing at least one activity from each sphere (Exploring and Engaging, Discerning and Deciding, Sending and Serving). Three activities will lead a group in 30-45 minutes of learning and reflection In each sphere one activity is designed for “easy preparation” (requires minimal preparation with supplies normally found at the church)
Theme	<p>Themes referred to as “Practices of Faith” and identified as 12 circles of practices for congregations to explore as they seek a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and with one another</p>
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides suggestions for music and hymns
Leader Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leaders have 54 activities—enough material for up to 12 sessions per Faith Practice. Each Faith Practice is explored in six ways: Discovery, Scripture, Discipleship, Christian Tradition, Context and Mission, Future and Visioning
Class Kits/Learner Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resources for learners include handout materials to be printed for your group, Internet links to websites, videos, and music. Six art pieces are used with each Faith Practice. Posters of this art may be purchased separately
Links to Worship/Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component for Worship, Music, Art, and Story may be purchased
Enrichment/Companion Pieces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full-colour posters of artwork from <i>Imaging the Word</i> (The Pilgrim Press) and Allposters.com
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available to order online only starting June 1, 2010 at http://faithpractices.org



Age Level/Grading

- For a multi-age one-room school model
- Special activities for three age groups: 3–6, 7–9, and 10–13

Description

- Simple, flexible, and straightforward 30–40 minute lessons
- Activities could also supplement other curricula
- Ideas for a variety of age groups with adaptation

Unique Features

- One theme per book, with reproducible activity resources and user-friendly, explicit instructions
- Requires very little advance preparation

Terms/Sessions per Term

- Five or six sessions per book

Theme

- The Church
- Superheroes
- Christmas Is Coming
- Friendship
- Prayer
- John 3:16
- Gifts
- Animals of the Bible

Music

- Music suggestions but no CD or other musical resources

Leader Resources

- Background information on the theme and suggested biblical texts
- Instructions that make each lesson simple to prepare and teach

Class Kits/Learner Resources

- Photocopy-ready learner pages in leader manual

Links to Worship/Service

- Each book contains “Connecting with the Congregation,” which links the lessons with the broader life of the faith community and the family

Enrichment/Companion Pieces

- None

Other Considerations

- Thematic approach works best if children attend weekly
- Very useful for a smaller, multi-age classroom
- Simple, explicit instructions for leaders require readily available supplies

Other Curriculum Programs



Challenging Empire
A CALL TO COMMUNITY
The United Church of Canada • L'Église Unie du Canada

Bible Adventures

The *Bible Adventures* series for children ages 5–12 offers a five-session curriculum that was written by a United Church minister and has been tested in several congregations. The half-day sessions are suitable for Bible schools, camps, mid-week groups, and Workshop Rotation Model Sunday schools.

Bible Adventures: Sharing the Good News helps children see that people of faith working together can add good news of caring, peace, and justice-making to their world. The program shares this message through the examples of the disciple Paul and his friends.

Bible Adventures II: Walking with Jesus helps children understand that walking with Jesus is a daily choice and challenge. The sessions use a hiking theme to connect Bible story dramas to the realities of children's lives, with activities such as games, snacks, crafts, and walking a labyrinth.

Children Challenging Empire

Five activity sessions include original stories that illustrate empire's bullying behaviour, a process of contrasting "Empire Thinking" with "Disciple Thinking," and the "Empire Rap," an engaging rhyme that children will be excited to learn and share.

Children of The Dancing Sun

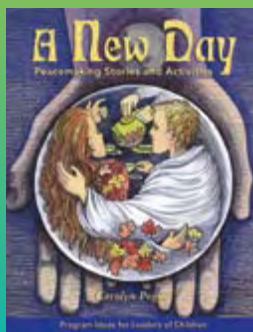
Inspired, illustrated, and developed within the First Nations community, *Children of The Dancing Sun* provides material for all ages that honours the unique gifts and faith stories of First Nations communities, and presents both biblical and Traditional stories.

A New Day

Download the Vacation Bible School Supplement for free and use it in conjunction with the book, *A New Day*, to help children engage in thinking about peace and taking actions to become peacemakers. Each session contains a "Peace Passage" to help children connect stories and activities to Bible passages.

www.united-church.ca/exploring/curriculum

Children of The Dancing Sun



Tips to Help Your Congregation Evaluate Curriculum

1. Form a group for curriculum evaluation. Prior to meeting, collect the materials you will need to make a responsible decision: your congregation's mission statement, a curriculum sampler or samples, a price list, or other materials. Samplers and/or samples of United Church-recommended curricula may be available from Conference offices or presbytery resource centres.
2. You may wish to design some creative, interactive welcoming activities to help the group identify the congregation's needs. For example, participants might tell a story or make a symbol to share a significant factor that contributed to their faith development in the church as a child or that contributes to it now.
3. The evaluation worksheet found in the Curriculum Evaluation Tool* will help your faith group to format a quick overview of what to look for in evaluating a curriculum.
4. To choose your curriculum, the group could be divided into subgroups to look at particular benchmarks. One group, for example, might look at the theological stance and interpretation of scripture, another at the faith formation approach and community involvement. Perhaps all group members will need to use a sampler or sample materials to look closely at the curriculum content and how the curriculum presents itself. Children and youth might take a look at learner and take-home materials.
5. If possible, provide time for the group to experience a session of the sample materials.
6. In making a decision, curriculum choices need to support the congregation's mission statement.
7. Remember that curriculum is a tool. Many other factors in the church's life and ministry influence faith formation. Choose a curriculum that is flexible and adaptable to your congregation's needs.
8. Cheaper is not always better. First of all, choose a curriculum that is based on the faith formation needs of your congregation. Then keep in mind that visuals and attractive learner and take-home materials are essential to faith formation and for connecting family and church spirituality. They are as important as suiting the physical space to learners' needs.
9. Once you have chosen a curriculum, appeal to the congregation's creativity and generosity to find the necessary budget.

Excerpted from *Curriculum Evaluation Tool, The United Church of Canada. Complete booklet available from curriculum@united-church.ca or download by visiting www.united-church.ca/exploring/curriculum.



All-in-One Bible Fun

13 Lessons for Busy Teachers

All-in-One Bible Fun is the perfect children's program for leaders on a budget or those looking for a simpler approach. Each book is a collection of 13 Bible lessons for children and has a plan with opening, story, activity, and craft. The material is undated so teachers can use it throughout the year.

Books available in this series:

Stories of Jesus Preschool

978-1-42670-778-0

Stories of Jesus Elementary

978-1-42670-779-7

Favourite Bible Stories Preschool

978-1-42670-783-4

Favourite Bible Stories Elementary

978-1-42670-780-3

Fruit of the Spirit Preschool

978-1-42670-785-8

Fruit of the Spirit Elementary

978-1-42670-782-7

Heroes of the Bible Preschool

978-1-42670-784-1

Heroes of the Bible Elementary

978-1-42670-781-0

\$11.99 each



Spark Bible

New Revised Standard Version

This version helps kids explore the Bible in a personal way, making it easy for them to interact with God's Word. Includes activity suggestions, reflective questions, and stickers with questions and statements. For Grade 3–6.

978-0-80667-048-5

\$24.99



Spark Story Bible

The *Spark Story Bible* brings God's Word to life through colourful art and a rich retelling of 150 of the most popular Bible stories. Easy to read, this Bible has vibrant artwork and an activity suggestion or query for every story. For age 2–Grade 2.

978-0-80667-049-2

\$24.99



Lectionary Story Bible Set

Years A, B, and C

Ralph Milton

This collection of Bible stories covers all three years of The Revised Common Lectionary. It is a comprehensive package that is easy to use, easy to understand, and contains all of the familiar and favourite Bible stories. The set is "a must-have resource" for Christian educators, camp leaders, worship leaders, and families who want to share their faith at home.

978-1-55145-578-8

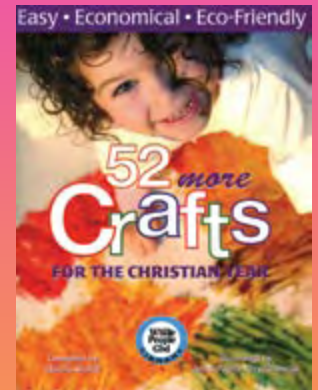
\$85.00

52 More Crafts

For the Christian Year
Donna Scorer

This book offers 52 easy, economical, and environmentally-friendly crafts with step-by-step instructions and illustrations. Based on the seasons of the church year, you'll find crafts for all major celebrations, including seasonal recipes. Crafts incorporate recycled and inexpensive materials; the index is cross-referenced by theme and seasons of the church year.

978-1-55145-570-9
\$16.95



Delicious Bible Stories

No-Cook Recipes that Teach
Daphna Flegal, LeeDell Stickler

Using no-cook methods, boys and girls make foods that go along with the Bible stories they are hearing. Bible stories from both the Old and the New Testaments, ingredient lists, and preparation directions for the foods are included.

978-1-42670-032-3
\$12.99



101 Games That Keep Kids Coming

Get-to-Know-You Games for Ages 3-12
Jolene L. Roehlkepartain

Teaching children how to make friends and creating a sense of community are two key factors in building a strong Christian education program. Many children resist coming to Sunday school and children's ministry events because they do not know the other children. Here are 101 ways to help children make friends at church.

978-0-687-65120-7
\$18.99



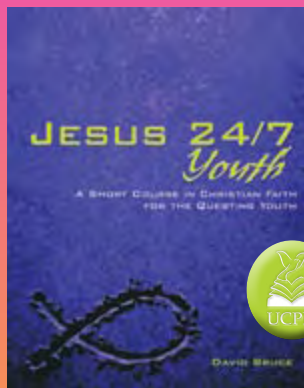
Heroes of Hope

Leadership Training for Everyone
Scott Douglas

Heroes of Hope is a must for every family. It also makes a great resource for those working with children. Scott Graham has compiled 17 years' worth of work into one book. Both children and adults will learn strategies to deal with bullying, anger, peer pressure, and much more.

978-0-96890-623-1
\$10.00



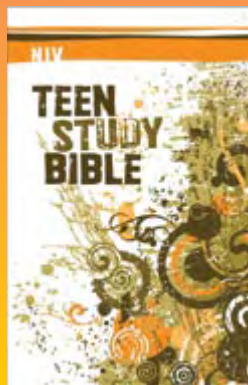


Jesus 24/7 Youth

A Short Course in Christian Faith for the Questing Youth
David Bruce

An accessible guide to the Christian faith from a youth's perspective, *Jesus 24/7 Youth* began with a confirmation class of 10 regular teenagers. The youths' explorations into the Christian faith have evolved into an adaptable guide for all youth and their leaders. Use it for confirmation preparation and in full or in part for regular youth study groups.

978-1-55134-173-6
\$15.95

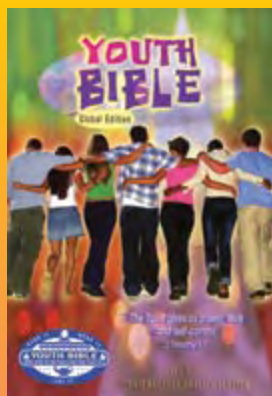


Teen Study Bible

New International Version

The bestselling *NIV Teen Study Bible* for kids ages 12–15 is now revised for a new generation. Includes sections that help explain the foundations of faith, indexes for Bible study, biblical advice for teens, Q&A of Bible trivia, and an overview of the Bible.

9780310716808
\$24.79



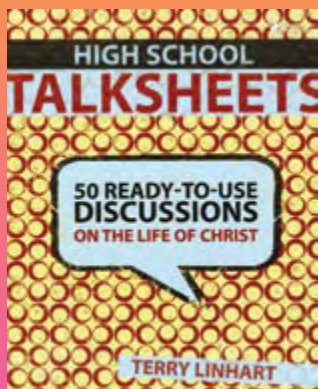
Youth Bible - Global Edition

Contemporary English Version

The CEV has been described as a user-friendly translation that can be read aloud without stumbling and heard without misunderstanding. This handy-size Bible comes in a colourful hardcover and provides General Introductions for each book of the Bible and a Mini Dictionary.

Readings for Special Days and Events.

978-0-56409-825-5
\$4.95



High School Talksheets

50 Ready-to-Use Discussions on the Life of Christ
Terry Linhart

High School Talksheets gives you easy-to-use discussion starters and the tools to lead students into meaningful dialogue about Jesus. The one-page, reproducible handouts offer questions in a compelling design that cover everything from the prediction of Jesus' birth to his ascension.

978-0-31028-552-6
\$20.99

**For more information
and to place your order, see back cover.**



There are a number of informed staff who are ready to answer your curriculum questions or advise you on the various options available to your congregation.

Contact:

1. Congregational, Educational, and Community Ministries Unit at the General Council offices—416-231-7680 ext. 4186, or e-mail: curriculum@united-church.ca
2. Web page: www.united-church.ca/exploring/curriculum
3. UCRD staff at the numbers listed below
4. Your local presbytery resource centre at www.united-church.ca/contact/prc



For more information or to place an order, choose from any one of these helpful customer services:



Shop online at www.UCRDstore.ca



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or locally **416-253-5456**
Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET



Mail your order to:
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United Church Resource Distribution
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Toronto, ON M8Z 1E8



Fax toll-free **1-888-858-8358**
or locally **416-253-1630**
Please include church account.



Contact a participating presbytery resource centre near you. Visit www.united-church.ca/contact/prc for listing.

Prices and availability subject to change without notice.

Note: United Church Resource Distribution (UCRD) distributes the curricula described in this brochure. Orders placed directly to UCRD for products produced in the United States can save congregations considerable shipping and brokerage fee charges.

Visit www.UCRDstore.ca for more books and resources.