

2017 Curriculum Overview for Youth Formation

| Curriculum | Publisher (Denomination) | Foundation Statement | Content & Articulation | Teacher support | Format | Ages | Cost / Usability |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|
| <i>52 Great Bible Studies for Youth</i> | Faith Alive (Reformed) www.faithaliveresources.org | Bible studies challenge teens to respond to God's Word in their daily lives and are ideal for youth groups, church school classes, retreats, and more. | Eleven units with three to seven sessions each on topics such as: Gossip, Decisions, Forgiveness, Kingdom of Heaven, Money and Lifestyle, Self-image, Service, Stressors (TNIV/The Message) | Designed for student led groups | One page session plan. Downloadable. | High School | All sessions via download \$40.00 Individual sessions \$3-\$5.00 UNDATED |
| <i>A Life of Grace for the Whole World</i> | Church Publishing (Episcopal) by Stephanie Johnson & Jerry Cappell www.churchpublishing.org/lifeofgraceforthewholeworldyouth | Using the “House of Bishop's Pastoral Teaching on the Environment,” re-claims the theology of salvation and redemption for all creation. | 5-week series Exploratory questions for the facilitator allow for open-ended conversation and discussion of current events around environment and faith. | Complete Leader Guide. | Print with recommendations to video links. | High School | \$29.95 Leader Guide \$8.95 Youth Booklet |
| <i>Bible-in-Life</i> | David C. Cook (independent) www.davidcook.com/curriculum/davidcook | Evangelical guidance to present basic Bible truths without being distracted by doctrines over which Bible-believing Christians may disagree. Having a personal relationship with Christ; a desire to witness, minister and serve | Scope & Sequence (small Anglican supplement “The Lamp Lighter” in center of teacher’s guide) 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 | Toddler/2 – Adult | Per quarter: \$8.29 Teacher \$19.99 Aids \$4.59 Craft book \$4.59 Take home \$5.19 Student book <i>print & digital</i> DATED |
| <i>BL4Y (Bible Lessons for Youth)</i> | Abingdon (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com | Help youth discover that the Bible has meaning for life today! Bible-based lessons help youth claim the Scriptures as their own. | Following the International Lesson Series, youth examine the entire Bible over a six-year period. (CEB) | The Leader Book has a facsimile of each page from the Youth Book, Bible commentary from biblical scholars, and in-depth lesson plans | The Youth Book has the actual Scripture reading, reflections on how the Scripture relates to their life, and activities to engage their interest | Grades 7 – 12 with adaptable levels for Jr. High and Sr. High teens | Per quarter: \$11.99 Leader \$8.99 Youth DATED |

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| <i>Claim the Life</i> | Abingdon Press (Methodist) www.ClaimtheLife.com | God is already at work in the lives of your youth. Claim the Life brings together the hopes you have for your youth: spiritual formation, discipleship, Christian community, and faith knowledge from confirmation to graduation. | 6-year comprehensive youth curriculum for (MS: Journey/Word/Faith & HS: Promise/Story/Call; Each year's theme has 2 semesters of 16 weeks each; based on key words or phrases | CD-ROM, web, e-mail and DVDs with 2 teaching options: activity based or discussion based (using videos or questions) | Traditional classroom or youth group involves video vignettes, interactive website and print materials | Grades 7-9 Grades 10-12 | Per semester: \$19.99 Leader \$7.99 Student \$30 Teaching tools \$22 Videos UNDATED |
| <i>Collaborate: Bible Study</i> | Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/collaborate | Hands-on investigative learning that leads to deep engagement with the Bible, faith, and what it means to be a Christian. | 15 Old Testament or 15 New Testament stories and themes begin with an infographic, then short animated video, interaction, and project. | Leader Guide has Bible verses, a theological and historical background, and practical support to guide each lesson. | Traditional classroom focused on problem-based learning | Youth | \$29.99 Leader Guide \$8.99 Student Handbook \$34.99 DVD |
| <i>Connect</i> | Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/connect/ | Tweens revisit the Bible's greatest stories, uncover major biblical themes, and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives. It's Bible-centered Sunday school with just enough quirky tween humor to get them hooked. | 2 year Scope & Sequence of 5 units (30 lessons each) Year 1: OT (100%) Year 2: NT (60% Gospel, 40% Acts, Letters, etc. of NT) NRSV | Leader Guide is 4-page easy lesson plan. Dependent on DVD for "warm up" video, Connect Bible, and Learner Sheets (project papers). Often involves food and candy. | Traditional classroom, 60+ minute session | Tweens (Grades 5-6) | Per Unit: \$24.99 DVD \$10.99 Leader \$4.99 Learner (per student) Connect Bibles: \$24.99 Hardcover \$19.99 Paperback |
| <i>Dwell: Dive</i> | Faith Alive (Reformed) http://dwell.faithalive.com/resources.org/home | Intentionally crafted as an ongoing journey in God's story. Each year builds on the previous one—from preschool all the way through grade 8. In age-appropriate ways, children are introduced to beautiful simplicity, growing complexity, and deeper mystery. | 3-year Scope & Sequence of OT & NT stories; Annually 6 units of 5-6 sessions each | Online training modules; Session plans for leaders | Traditional classroom; magazine, Dive Devotions, Story Symbol Sets, | Grades 6-8 | \$9.00 Leader's Guide (per unit) \$8.50 Dive Devotions \$6.50 Magazine (per unit) \$14.00 Story Symbol Set |

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| <i>Echo the Story</i> (12 or 36) | Sparkhouse/Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) (Michael Novelli) http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/echothestory | Students see the Bible and God in new and different ways through the storying process. | A 12-session overview from creation to the church and a 36-session journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation | Six part sequence led by a leader: 1. Rewind 2. Prepare 3. Imagine 4. Capture 5. Remix 6. Connect | To connect with different learning styles, each student chooses between the drawing and creative writing activities in the Sketch Journal. | Youth | Comes in 7 Session Sets each: \$15.99 Leader \$24.99 DVD \$7.99 Student Starter Pack: \$219.99 |
| <i>encounter: Meeting God Face-to-Face</i> | Standard (Independent) www.encounterface2face.com | “A Bible-based, culturally relevant, easy-to-teach, personally challenging, age-appropriate curriculum can lead teens to meet God face-to-face!” | Many pieces of scripture tied to contemporary issues. “Designed to help teens meet with God, not be indoctrinated with dogma about God.” | Teacher choice of activities. Online group support and additional resources for tapping into current events | For small group ministry. Books, video, audio and on-line resources | Young Teens (Ages 12-14) High School (Ages 15-18) | Quarterly: \$29.99 Teacher Kit \$8.49 Teacher Guide \$17.49 Resource \$4.49 Student \$19.99 Magazine |
| <i>Faith Lens</i> | Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) http://blogs.elca.org/faithlens | A weekly Bible study/discussion for youth & young adults, linking a current news story and scripture texts | Lectionary-based (NRSV) | Simple lesson plan with discussion questions, prayer and an activity | On-line, downloadable; posted every Wednesday | Middle School, High School, Young Adults | Free |
| <i>FaithLink</i> | Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com/faithlink | A study for use by individuals or groups of mature youth and adults who want to apply their United Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events. | The weekly lesson examines current news items from the perspective of biblical faith and United Methodist teaching. (NRSV) | Each weekly issue (6 pages) contains 4 copy-ready pages of background information and core Bible passages on the topic and 2 pages of suggested group activities and discussion questions. | On-line, downloadable | Older Youth, Young Adults, Adults | \$9.99 per issue/download |
| <i>Faith Questions</i> | Congregational Ministries Publishing (PCUSA) www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/curric | Based on faith questions asked by youth. Each session encourages young people to look to Scripture, as well as faith | 30+ topics such as God, Church, The Bible, Jesus Christ, Forgiveness, Heaven & Hell (from a | The Leader's Guide explores of a topic with multiple faith questions. | Movie, music, media, and other technologies are suggested to supplement the | Older Youth | Downloadable Coffeehouse version free with purchased \$15.95 Leader's Guide |

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| | ulum/youth/ | tradition, in relevant and responsive ways. | PCUSA perspective) | | lessons. | | |
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| <i>FaithWeaver NOW</i> | Group Publishing (independent) http://group.com/sunday-school/faithweaver-now | Concentrates on authentic learning education, and every activity has a purpose in encouraging faith growth for all ages. | Scope & Sequence quarterly with scripture and another key bible verse 25% OT 75% Gospel | Teacher Guides include background and dialogue script for speaking to class | Bible memory verses, drama, arts & crafts, stories – implies families study together at home | Toddlers – Adult | Quarterly: \$49.99 Class Pak \$11.99 Teacher \$5.99 Student \$9.99 CD DATED |
| <i>Feasting on the Word</i> | Westminster John Knox Press (PCUSA) www.feastingontheword.net/curriculum | Ecumenical resources that incorporates the uniqueness of commentaries providing for different approaches to each of the biblical passages of the lectionary readings. | Lectionary based. 63% Gospel 18% NT 18% OT | Comprehensive, accessible biblical background from four perspectives: exegetical, theological, pastoral and homiletical | Downloadable or print and ship option; packet of posters mailed separately | Grades (K) 1-2 Grades 3-4 Tweens (Gr. 5-6) Youth Young Adult Adult | \$275-350 Total Church Plan \$75/\$190 per age level Downloadable / or Print & ship \$65 Color Pack DATED |
| <i>Generation Why</i> | Brethren Press (Mennonite) https://shinecurriculum.com/generationwhy/ | All-in-one curriculum guides youth and their leaders on a journey for meaning and identity. In a time of violence, injustice, materialism, and hard questions, GW offers a different point of view. | “Bible-based explorations of issues facing youth” Modules of 6 sessions, plus extender session | Detailed session plans for teachers | Classroom | Youth | Per module: \$18.99 Print \$23.99 CD (pdf) |
| <i>God Talks</i> | LeaderResources by Heidi Hawkes (Episcopal) http://leaderresources.org/God-talks | To learn that one has a life purpose, to seek connection with inner self, to seek connection with God and the world around, to experience transcendence. | Topic-based program examines a single theme or concept (one per 2-5 weeks) with the goal of addressing the characteristics of spiritual development. | Downloadable lesson plans accessible through subscription membership | Classroom, downloadable lessons 20 topics | Designed for younger youth but all ages of youth may find it applicable | \$99 Downloadable UNDATED |
| <i>Grapple</i> | Group Publishing (independent) www.group.com/grapple | Answers tough preteen questions – and helps kids discover the power of a growing faith in Jesus | 12 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 | 4th-6th grade (preteen) and Junior High modules | Quarterly: \$69.99 per class size (8 quarters available) |

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| <i>Journey to Adulthood</i> | LeaderResources (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/j2a | Manhood & Womanhood are gifts from God. Adulthood must be earned. Rites of Passage are important; Pilgrimage is to seek God | Three 2 year components; each focuses on all aspects of a person: self, society, sexuality and spirituality | Huge amount of materials with lesson plans, liturgies, more; training recommended | Traditional classroom setting and youth group modules combined | Rite-13 (6-8th grade) J2A (9th-10th) YAC (11th-12th) | \$150-\$325 per year ASA downloadable UNDATED |
| <i>Lesson Plans that Work</i> | Episcopal Church (Episcopal) http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/ | Lessons are a guide to centering Christian education in the church & home around the Biblical story | Lectionary Based, can choose OT or Gospel lesson NRSV | Simple plans with biblical background, list of questions and activity; blog | Usually one activity per lesson with supplemental suggestions | Younger & Older Elementary; Adult Intergenerational | FREE Downloadable DATED |
| <i>LinC (Living in Christ)</i> | Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com | To develop Christian identity and live the Christian faith in contemporary culture, by challenging youth to think about their faith and beliefs. | Two full programs and a devotion on a timely issue – weekly. With the immediacy of online technology, relevant information about current issues that have immediate impact on youth. | Background and scripture related to the issue, book and movie reviews | Group setting for discussion | Older Youth and Young Adult (can be adapted depending on topic for younger youth) | \$9.99 per week or download DATED / past issues available for download / purchase |
| <i>Living the Good News Online</i> | Church Publishing (Episcopal) www.livingthegoodnews.com | Brings people together to discover and share God's word through learning, worship & everyday life. RCL (with support site for TEC, UMC, PCUSA, UCC and ELCA churches) and Catholic lectionary | Lectionary based 30% Old Testament 70% New Testament (GNB & NRSV) | Teacher Guide with scriptural background; Clear lesson plan; Support site with additional ideas and handouts | Completely online with links to additional resources inc. music, art, articles. Take home papers can be emailed home. | (All ages) Young Teen (Grade 7-9) High School (Grade 10-12) | Annual per level: \$139.99 Annual access for all levels: \$649.99 Downloadable UNDATED |
| <i>Making it Real & Relevant</i> | LeaderResources (Episcopal) By Heidi Hawks www.leaderresources.org/MRR | A multi-media, topically based Bible study so youth can explore God, Jesus, the Bible, their faith and values in ways that show them how real and relevant these topics are in their lives. | Available in an RCL lectionary format (Gospel) that examines community and world issues using video clips & current music. | Teacher lesson plans with lists of video & music used | Semester: 16 Fall & 17 Spring sessions; use of video & music; art experiences | Middle & High School | \$100-\$300 based on AWA Downloadable |

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| Mustard Seed Series | LeaderResources by Anita Keire - UCC www.leaderresources.org/mustardseed | 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) | \$150 – 360 based on AWA Downloadable \$13.95 Student \$37.95 Teacher per grade REUSABLE |
| NOOMA | Flannel & Zondervan (Independent) www.NOOMA.com | A series of short films that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. | 24 short (5-10 minute) videos of everyday things and situations paired with Rob Bell's commentary about Jesus in the common. (many translations) | None – video with booklet that has pictures, scripture and questions. Films are provocative for conversation. | Produced as video or downstream (Flannel) or video and download (Zondervan). Booklets | Older Youth Young Adults Adults | \$35.99 DVD bundle \$2.99 download each UNDATED |
| re:form | Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/reform/ | Youth encounter a question from the historic Christian faith through creative, provocative humor, illustrations and animation. (Created as a Confirmation resource, but has other potential) | Each question is presented in simple terms to encourage exploration and discovery. The DVD Set has 40 session videos. Each video is between 5-7 minutes in length. | Leader Guide has a theological background on the question presented and includes direction for the individual and group activities included in the Anti-Workbook. | DVD video is central with Anti-Workbook for student exploration | Grade 5 & 6 Middle School Confirmation | \$69.99 DVD Set OR \$12.95 digital download per video \$39.99 Leader Guide \$19.99-\$16.99 Anti-Workbook (1 per student) |
| re:form Ancestors re:form Traditions | Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://reform.wearesparkhouse.org | Explores the ancestors of our faith by exposing the real, unpolished, and unexpected personalities of the bible. Discover the similarities between themselves and the many unlikely people selected by God to do extraordinary things. | Ancestors: 15 OT characters 15 NT characters Traditions: Lutheran Methodist Reformed | Leader Guide has a theological background on the question presented / includes direction for the individual and group activities in the Anti-Workbook. | DVD video is central with Anti-Workbook for student exploration | Designed for High School due to the issues discussed | \$29.99 Leader \$34.99 DVD \$9.99 Anti-Workbook Each – The OT & NT Ancestors are sold separately |
| Seasons Encore | Wood Lake Books, (Ecumenical) www.spiritseasons.com | 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 Youth: 12-14 & 15-18 | \$159.80 per level all year (web) Quarterly: DATED |

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| <i>Teen Text</i> | The Educational Center (Episcopal) www.educationalcenter.org/resources/resources-youth | Helps youth connect the text on the page with events in their daily lives through discussions guided by a series of open-ended, text-related questions | Lectionary CEV & NRSV | Discussion guide provides information to facilitate the session; ability to be open and a good listener | Traditional classroom setting | Two levels: Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12 | Annually: \$75.00 each level DATED |
| <i>The Sunday Paper</i> | The Sunday Paper (Independent / Episcopal – written by Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard) www.the-sunday-paper.com/ | “It helps children to acquire a vocabulary of crucial Scriptural images, and to relate the Gospel to the OT, life of the Church, & their own lives.” | Lectionary-based; Gospel focused with OT & Psalm; Line drawings in cartoon fashion with activity page and commentary | None | Church (worship bulletin), home, nursery, or classroom | Intermediate – Grade 8 | Annually: \$105 print \$76 download DATED |
| <i>The Thoughtful Christian</i> | Westminster John Knox Press (Presbyterian) www.thoughtfulchristian.com | Bible study should be timely. It should stimulate our thoughts about Christian values and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life. | Web-based resource center comprised of various studies in units of 1-4 sessions on timely topics as well as denominational subjects from a variety of traditions | Each session is designed for 45-60 minutes with a 3-4-page Participant Handout and a 2-5 page Leader's Guide with lesson plans & resources. | Individual or group study | Youth Young Adult Adult | Downloadable as PDF files that can be duplicated Range from \$5 - \$18 per unit; discounts for subscribers |
| <i>These Are Our Bodies: Talking Faith & Sex at Church & Home</i> | Church Publishing (Episcopal) By Jenny Beaumont, Abbi Long, Caren Miles, and Samantha Haycock www.theseareourbodies.org | A sexuality education resource that enables them to embrace and affirm the wholeness of sexuality and to talk openly and honestly about the connection of sexuality and faith. | A 10-week course, grounded in Scripture (CEB) that follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather • Game • Grapple • Guide • Go | Full facilitator / leader guide with dialogue, glossary, handouts, activities. | Small group study with adults with parallel resources for parents to engage the conversation at home. | Modules: Middle School High School | \$24.00 Foundation Book \$21.95 Leader Guide \$6.95 Parent Book \$6.95 Participant Book |
| <i>Weaving God's Promises for Youth</i> | Church Publishing (Episcopal) www.weavinggodspromises.org/Program/Youth/ | To teach our youth the way of Christ, not only in the church but in the world; to help them make connections between the lessons and their own lives; to prepare them for Christian adulthood. | Year 1: Weaving Our Faith theme is God loves us and stays with us Year Two: Weaving Together the Family of God / Year Three: Weaving God's Beloved Community | Full teacher lesson plans, background material and appendix to assist a teacher in planning and knowing middle school students. | Age-appropriate activities using all modes of learning. Based on scripture, Episcopal traditions & worship, Christian living | Middle School Grades 6-8 | \$99-369 ASA pay and download Year 1: 40 lessons Year 2: 45 lessons Year 3: 48 lessons |

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| <i>We Believe: Faith Questions</i> | Congregational Ministries Publishing (Presbyterian) http://webelieve.pcusa.org/faith-questions/ | Created specifically for Presbyterians, focuses on Reformed heritage. In different ways, each age level includes content from Reformed creeds, confessions, catechisms and statements of faith. | Track for youth are in 4-6 session mini-courses exploring questions particular to the Bible, creeds and confessions of PCUSA | Leader Guides with specific plans; online training, downloads and newsletter | Print | High School youth | \$15.95 Teacher \$72.95 Kit |
| <i>The Best of Whole People of God Online</i> | Wood Lake Publishing www.wholepeopleofgod.com | A simple, easy-to-use curriculum for your entire Christian Education family. | Lectionary based | Downloadable plans and Weekly Tip Newsletter | Materials for classrooms, worship, home | All ages | \$135-\$1,416 Annual subscription (Sept-August) on church size |
| <i>Witness</i> | Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) www.augsburgfortress.org/learning/sunday-school/witness | To give students a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge with the practical ways to share their faith in daily life: to know the Word, grow in faith, show service | Two-year undated quarterly using scripture metaphorically Old Testament 33% New Testament 67% | Material prep and detailed printed dialogue for teachers to have with students | Variety of activities are simple with a hands-on approach | Closely graded – ages 2-8th grade | Semester: \$8.99 Teacher \$19.99 Class Kit \$7.99 Learner UNDATED |

NOTES:

- Coloring coding: Yellow – Children/Middle School; Blue – Tweens; Green – Youth; Orange – All ages – many including young adult and adult
- ASA = Average Sunday Attendance / AWA = Average Worship Attendance
- Bible Translations:
 - NRSV – New Revised Standard Version
 - NKJV / KJV – New King James Version / King James Version
 - CEB – Common English Bible
 - NLT – New Living Translation (paraphrased)
 - CEV – Contemporary English Version
 - NIV – New International Version
 - TEV – Today’s English Version
 - GNB – Good News Bible

Confirmation resources for youth are not included here and can be found on a separate chart.

For updated overviews of curricula for children, youth & adults and more in-depth reviews, see www.rowsfsharon.com. For more information or questions regarding this chart contact Sharon Ely Pearson spearson@cpg.org