



Presbyterian
**Children
& Families**
Ministry

This resource has been chosen as a 'Favourite from our Kids Friendly Archives'. Please note the author(s) of this resource no longer work on our team. To contact our team, please visit our PCFM website: <https://pcfcm.org.nz/contact/>

Choosing a Curriculum



 Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

This document is intended as a resource for the Church. The information it contains is not prescriptive. The Book of Order and its subordinate standards contain the Church's official rules and directions. Any perceived conflict between the information contained in this resource and the Church's Book of Order and subordinate standards is entirely unintentional.

INTRODUCTION

There are MANY teaching materials, resources and materials available to churches – from a short series of lessons to a comprehensive 3 or 4 year plan, from free downloadable activity sheets to commercially printed materials for every child and age group.

So how do you decide what is right for the children of your church? It can be a daunting task to explore all the options available so Kids Friendly has done some research for you!

Our **“Choosing a Curriculum”** resource offers guidelines for choosing teaching resources and gives brief descriptions of some of the Christian education material available. Where possible we have also included comments, recommendations and tips from some of our experienced Children’s ministry leaders.

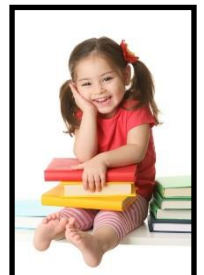
Please email us with your suggestions. Like all Kids Friendly resources, this will be an ever evolving document formed and transformed by you – the experts!

See also our ***Kids Friendly Sunday*** collection of resources which complement this resource:

- **A Kids Friendly welcome**
- **Kids Friendly Worship**
- **Planning a Kids Friendly children’s programme**
- **Praying with children**

REMEMBER!

As you explore and gather information think about YOUR own childhood experiences of Christian nurture. What do you remember? What and who influenced you most? The stories and activities? The teachers and leaders?



32% of Christians come to faith as children and can name the person who most influenced them. (Barna group research)

You are the curriculum!

More than any curriculum resource, children will ‘read’ us and respond to the welcome, friendship, teaching and encouragement we offer them.

“Remember a curriculum is a valuable tool in the parish’s nurture of children, but no curriculum by itself can bring about sound and balanced Christian nurture. Christian nurture is so much more than an academic curriculum, but a good well chosen curriculum offered as part of a wider parish effort to include children in the worship and life of the church, can be instrumental in fostering faith and awakening devotion and conscience as well as transmitting information.” **Gretchen Wolff Pritchard**

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1. WHERE DO WE START?

A. Vision and values

The vision, values and mission of your church will influence your choice of educational material. Many churches have developed vision and mission statements that describe who they are and how they will engage with God, one another and the community. This will have a bearing on the particular resources and programmes a church will favour e.g. a Kids Friendly church will hopefully consider how the curriculum could support the overall Kids Friendly Sunday experience including the children's time in the all age worship service.

It's well worth identifying the values of your church and your children's programme. Values are characteristics of your place and programme that are non-negotiables and easily detected by outsiders e.g. hospitality, fun, equality etc. Again these will influence the kind of curriculum you may choose.

The Kids Friendly Self Review helps churches develop a strategic plan and define a vision, mission and values for ministry with children and families.

Please contact the Kids Friendly staff for more information, resources and coaching.

B. Responsibility

The leadership team (including the minister, session/parish council and any ministry leaders) is responsible for all the ministries of your church including children's ministry. Sometimes this is delegated to a Christian Education or Children and Families Ministry committee. (Consider an appropriate name for this committee as well as its purpose. Children's ministry is SO much more than Christian Education) Ideally this group should be made up of the minister, one or two Session or parish council members, key children's leaders (paid and voluntary) and two or three congregation members with gifts and passion in the area of Children and Families ministry.

This committee will ideally meet regularly to support the leaders and the organisation of the ministry. They may also bring regular reports to Session/ Parish Council with recommendations for the recruitment and appointment of all children's workers (voluntary and paid) and also the approval of teaching materials, programmes and activities, as needed. This committee should also ensure the safety of its leaders and all children.

The Kids Friendly Safety in Children's Ministry resource offers guidelines, strategies and sample policies on all aspects of a church's responsibility towards children and leaders.

Christian Education or Christian Nurture

"The nurture of children within the church (or school) is commonly known as "Christian Education" and takes place almost exclusively through a structure known as the Sunday school (or RE class), which models itself on regular school. It's organised in classes, with teachers, who use curriculums, with lesson plans. It operates on the unspoken assumption that children must learn how to be Christians, in an academic setting, before they can actually begin to do any of the things that Christians normally do together in a community of faith: pray together, celebrate the sacraments, share their faith and their lives, cherish the hope of things unseen and bear witness in love and service in the world." **Gretchen Wolff Pritchard. "Offering the gospel to children"**

Discuss: Does your church plan for children on the basis of education or nurture or both?

C. Explore

WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR CURRICULUM WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE?

- Teach children the Bible?
- Develop their faith in God?
- Encourage children to live their daily lives in the light of the gospel?
- Transmit to them particular traditions and practices of the denomination?
- Incorporate them into the worship life of the parish?
- Support and resource parents to share faith at home?

D. Gather information

Bring your vision and goals together with the practical information you need to make a decision. Brainstorm using these questions and considerations:

CHILDREN AND LEADERS

- How many children do you have and what ages are they?
- What length of time do you have for your programme?
- Will children stay together (some of the time/all of the time?)
- Will they go into small groups related to their ages? (Some of the time/all of the time?)
- How many leaders do you have? (This can influence whether you break into small groups or not)
- Are there different goals for different groups?
- How much help do the teachers need? (Some like detailed instructions while others just need a basic outline)
- Do you have consistent leaders for at least a term at a time or is there a rotation of leaders/helpers over shorter periods?

CHURCH TIME

- How are children included in the worship service?
e.g. welcomed at the door, invited to the front, encouraged to contribute. (See **A Kids Friendly Sunday** resource for ideas.)
- Do children have a regular teaching time in church? (e.g. children's talk)
- Is it related to the sermon, service theme and Sunday School activities?
- Or is the time in church unrelated to their later learning activities?
- How and when do the children share their learning?

ORGANISATION

- What is the budget for resources and staff/leaders?
- What spaces and rooms can be used?
- Is there a similar structure to the sessions each week? e.g. welcome, getting to know you, special announcements and celebrations, prayers, introducing the theme, reinforcing the theme in creative ways. (See **Planning a Kids Friendly Children's Programme** resource for ideas.)

Children love routine and a consistent structure is especially important if the children's leaders change.

Creating a sacred space

*"It's important to create "sacred space" for kids – **place, space** and **time** for them to explore and express their faith in unscripted ways"*

Pastor Greg Priebbenow.

"To step across the threshold of the classroom is to a "place of imagining". A different language is spoken here. Relationships are attended to in careful and caring ways to promote a learning and use of that language to know God."

Jerome Berryman, Godly Play

CHOOSING YOUR CURRICULUM

- What choices of curriculum are available? **Use this resource to research!**
- Check out some of the websites listed, gather samples to view or trial.
- No one curriculum is going to be perfect match but is it easy to adapt the resource to meet your needs?
- Ask leaders in other churches what has worked for them. Read the comments from experienced leaders in this resource.
- How does the theology of the curriculum fit with the theology of your church?
- Does it use the Bible in chronological, liturgical (lectionary based) or theme based ways?
- Does the curriculum take into account the different learning styles of both children and leaders?
- Is there a good variety of activities to encourage children to wonder, explore and respond to God?

Remember children learn best with LOTS of activity, using ALL their senses within a structure where they are welcomed and loved.

A Lived Christian faith

"Curriculum should engage the present praxis of participants, bring them to reflect on it, teach the tradition with practical intent and invite a faith response that realises the values of God's reign in their lives and world.

Opportunities for living in Christian faith should be integrated into the curriculum rather than regarded as ancillary.

Much religious education is marked by the assumption that there is a direct correlation between religious knowledge and lived faith, that to impart knowledge about Christianity is adequate to promote Christian identity and agency.

Religious education for the lived Christian faith is an ontological enterprise that is to inform, form and transform people in heads, hearts and lifestyle."

Thomas H Groome

How does your ministry with children:

inform

form

transform

their heads, hearts and lifestyle?



One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feeling.

Curriculum is necessary raw material, but warmth is the vital element for the growing plant and for the soul of the child.

Carl Jung, psychologist

A. Lectionary Based Resources

Christian churches of several denominations in NZ use the Common Lectionary Revised (1992) as a Bible reading plan for covering the seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, Pentecost etc) and major Biblical themes and stories over a three year period. The following resources are based on this lectionary and can be very helpful for planning 'seamless learning' from the church service to children's group times. Families can also follow up their learning at home during the week.

1. SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT

www.seasonsonline.org.au



Seasons ENCORE – age-level resources
Seasons FUSION – for congregational life

Includes: Seasons resources are offered in a choice of 3 formats: Print (ready to use), Disk (digital resources) and Web. There are also additional music, posters and website resources

Suitable for: Mix and match the resources to suit your church. (6 examples in catalogue and on website to help you decide) In **Seasons ENCORE** there are separate resources for Ages 3-5, 6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-18, adult, plus a Multi Age option (5-12 years)

Seasons FUSION resources help congregations who want to 'combine time, space, adults and children in worship, learning and serving together.' (All age worship resources including planning, Biblical background, 3 page worship outline, Bible story and poetry prose page, stations ideas and resource sheets)

SEASONS OF THE SPIRIT offers a very comprehensive set of resources for churches that follow the Lectionary. There are MANY extras in the printed material for leaders as well as full access to the website for more supporting resources and email advice.

Available from: The web format of product can only be ordered online at www.seasonsonline.org.au (through MediaCom EducationInc)

For Seasons PRINT and DISK orders and all enquiries, the NZ agent is:
Epworth Books Ltd www.epworthbooks.org.nz
PO Box 17255
Karori
Wellington 6147

Freephone 0800 755 355
Email: sales@epworthbooks.org.nz

Each age group's year pack is around \$300, the Multi Age and Fusion packs are around \$600 each. It is cheaper to buy in disk format than print format and even cheaper for web orders. It is definitely worth ordering and paying before 31 August to receive the early order discount (about \$50 off each pack)

What users say:

St John's in the City Wellington has used the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum for a number of years. In 2012 they had an average of 45 children (3-12 yrs) separated into 5 age groups. Anna Davis who leads **StJ's Kids** says:

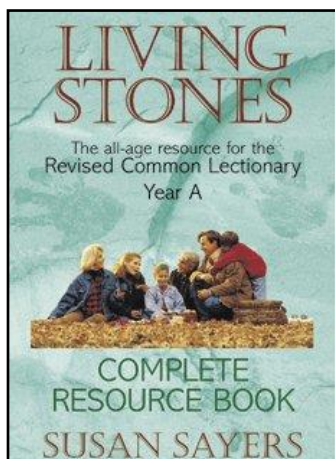
- The Seasons curriculum follows the lectionary and thus provides a connection with the morning and evening worship services which also follow the lectionary.
- It has good theology with a social justice and care of the earth bent.
- It tends to offer flexible leading ideas that can be easily adapted to incorporate intergenerational and inter-age faith learning opportunities which suits us.
- It provides good background notes that offer insights that one wouldn't necessarily gain from simply reading the Bible passage. (Can be used as leaders' personal devotions)
- The core content is good but the graphics aren't that great so we often supplement them.
- The music supplied is limited so we're always looking for alternatives.
- There are take home ideas each week and extra faith@home resources (mainly during Lent and Advent) which can be downloaded from the website
- It's relatively easy to prepare lessons and there are lots of options for being extra creative.
- Maximum cost for us would be \$1200 per annum which includes music CDs and scores, wall posters and packs for 6 different age groups (3-12yr olds and congregational pack with worship suggestions)

St Mark's Pinehill, Dunedin has a smaller group of children aged 0-13yrs and use the Multi age pack. Benita Barton appreciates:

- That this curriculum follows the Christian year and offers extra articles, Bible reading notes and weekly tips via email for the leaders.
- You can't pick it up at the last minute and it does need quite a bit of preparation, but then I enjoy this and get a lot out of it
- I introduce the scripture in church and hope this year with more regular leadership we will use some of the ideas provided for all age worship services.
- The Congregational Life pack (Fusion) is excellent for churches where lay people take services.
- I photocopy some pages from this pack as take home readings for our small congregation.
- Data disks come with packs or can be purchased separately instead of printed packs but cost nearly as much. There are small videos on the disk.
- Music CDs are extra but written music copies come in the packs.
- It costs us about \$1000 a year and some people give extra especially towards these resources for our children.

2. LIVING STONES

www.epworthbooks.org.nz, www.churchstores.co.nz



Includes: Separate books for 3 age levels plus the Complete Resource book for worship services.

Suitable for: Pebbles (3-5yrs), Rocks (6-10yrs), Boulders (11-14yrs) and Complete Resource Book (all ages)

The Complete Resource Book explores the texts of Common Worship, teases out the meaning and opportunities inherent in them and then offers abundant ideas, suggestions and encouragement.

Lesson outlines and activity ideas including photo-copiable worksheets are in the age level separate books: Pebbles,

Rocks and Boulders.

Available from:

Epworth Books Ltd

Phone: 04 476 3330 or freephone 0800 755 355

Email: sales@epworthbooks.org.nz

Shop: 338 Karori Road, Karori, Wellington 6012

Church Stores

Phone: 09 525 1380

Email: sales@churchstores.co.nz

Shop: 8 Roberts Street, Ellerslie, Auckland 1051

Cost: \$50 per book for a year's resources

What users say:

Benita Barton at St Marks Pinehill has used the Living Stones books for a number of years and now owns the three year cycle of books in each age level:

- The format is the same at each level based on the same readings. There is a one page introduction with goals well set out and a photocopiable page.
- The activity sheets are particularly good for the 11-15yrs age
- I use ideas in these books to back up the Seasons of the Spirit resources
- Sometimes the activities follow one of the other lectionary readings.

Jill Kayser at St Heliers Presbyterian, Auckland: We used these when I was children's minister at St Heliers many moons ago. They were simple to use and our volunteer rostered leaders liked them because they were easy to understand with good age appropriate ideas.

3. SERMONS4KIDS

www.sermons4kids.com



Includes: a talk based on one of the Lectionary readings for each week and follow up Colouring Pages, Puzzles, Games, Songs, and Other Activities related to the message.

Also on the website is an index of sermons for the complete three year cycle and more than 40 PowerPoints including the wonderful artwork of Henry Martin.

Suitable for: All ages together in church. Free activity sheets are easy to download and print. Set up a low table, crayons, felts, nice paper and activity sheets etc for children to work on during the sermon.

If children are going out to a programme you will need games, songs, prayers and craft options for a whole programme.



For more ideas see **Planning a Kids Friendly Children's Programme**

Available from: Website above. Very easy to access, download and adapt.

Cost: FREE! 😊

What users say:

- A number of ministers have commented that this site is very helpful in giving them an appropriate age related talk on the Lectionary theme.
- There are always a selection of activity sheets to choose from that relate to the Scripture.
- Easy to select and prepare.
- Kids Friendly suggests this website as a good source of activity sheets for activity packs prepared for those times when unexpected children arrive or when there is no children's programme being offered e.g. during holiday times.



For more ideas see **A Kids Friendly Welcome**

4. ROOTS on the web

www.rootsontheweb.com



This is a lectionary-based resource available in two bi-monthly magazines: Adults and All age; and Children and Young people with a huge library of supporting online materials.

Each issue of ROOTS magazine offers many ideas of ways to open the Bible with the appropriate groups, exploring one of the readings from the **Revised Common Lectionary** and relating it to everyday life.

Both magazines have the same biblical focus so that they can work together.

Each week the Children & Young People magazine provides:

- an activity and a prayer to start your session
- a **storybook presentation** of the Bible reading
- simple starting points for exploring the meaning of the reading with children
- a **Bible study** for leaders and young people to work through together
- activities, prayers and craftwork related to the reading
- a prayer to close the session.

The ROOTS resources are adaptable for many situations:

- with a range of ages together or in age-banded groups
- for shorter or longer sessions
- in different locations – a well-equipped room, a vestry, a church hall, a school
- in weekly sessions or with groups who meet less often
- by the same leaders each time or by different people on a roster

Cost: Subscription to the magazine is required to access the online resources. Samples can be viewed on the website.

1 year subscription (six issues) is approximately \$100 (Adult and All Age magazine) \$120 (Children and Young People magazine) or both \$190

5. CONNECTIBLE (STRANDZ)

www.strandz.org.nz (Anglican Children and Families ministry resources)



Strandz have 2 free web based children's curriculum based on the Lectionary. [Connectible](#) is a FREE online curriculum for the whole Church and it is ready for you to test out! (Dec 2015)

" Over the next year, we will be moving the content from Storybox onto the Connectible database, so it will all be in one place for you to use.

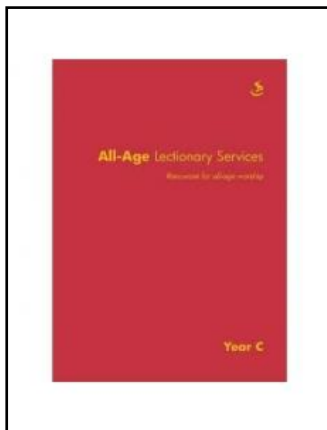
Connectible follows the Lectionary to help you easily find the resources that connect with a key Bible reference for each Sunday. Each week there are set of components that connect together. Use all of them or only a few. You can find resources by selecting the date or by search.

This is a resource sharing platform, so if you have good idea, share it. Right now we are in private registration mode with only a limited number of contributors, we will be opening this up soon. If you are interested in contributing please be in contact."

Please visit connectible.nz

6. THE ALL-AGE LECTIONARY Annual

www.scriptureunion.org.nz



Includes: The All-Age Lectionary services Annual contains 60 all-age service outlines that make full use of the Lectionary Bible readings in Common Worship and the Revised Common Lectionary. One imitation leather book is produced for each year.

Suitable for: Anyone who leads people of all-ages in church services. Each book is packed full of suggestions for Bible reading, Bible exploration, prayers, games and music.

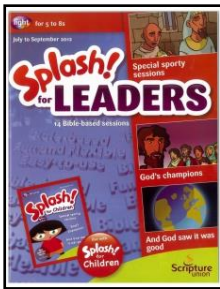
Available from: www.scriptureunion.org.nz

Cost: About \$50. One is produced each year.

B. 3-4 year Curricula

1. LIGHT- SCRIPTURE UNION

www.scriptureunion.org.nz



Includes: Teacher manuals and children's activity magazines (optional). Produced quarterly. Covers the major Christian festivals each year and a range of other Bible Stories and themes over a four year cycle. Supporting resources – music CDs, timeline and web resources for each series.

Suitable for: Age based groups -*Bubbles* (under 5s), *Splash!* (5-8s), *Xstream* (8-11s), *The GRID* (11-14s)

Light is very clearly Bible-focused. It helps children and young people to understand the Bible and Christian faith and encourages them to develop a personal relationship with Christ. *Splash!* and *Xstream* follow the core *Light* syllabus, *Bubbles* adapts as needed for the younger age group and *The GRID* relates the Bible to young people's contemporary issues.

Available from:

To browse all resources online www.scriptureunion.org.nz then click the store tab

Email: resources@scriptureunion.org.nz

Phone: 0508 423 836

There are SU resource staff to help you in the National office, Wellington or regional offices, Auckland and Invercargill

Cost: \$20.99 for each *Light* teacher's manuals (4 per year) and \$5.99 per each child's corresponding activity magazine (optional).

What users say:

Calvin Community Church, Gore has about 50 children (0-11yrs) divided into three age groups for the approximately one hour children's programme each Sunday. Sandra Gow likes using the *Light* material:

- Its age appropriate across all the above age groupings, so we are all learning the same lesson.
- It doesn't fit with the church teaching though as our Pastors do their own topics for sermons.
- Preparation takes about an hour for most leaders. (I take the older children and often spend more time preparing the lesson because it doesn't always have enough creative fun ways to engage them.)
- There are 2 -3 options for every component of the lesson, so you can usually tailor it to suit your group.
- Every leader has a teacher's manual but I have not purchased the children's activity books as I think that would be too expensive.
- There are suggested songs for the lessons and you can purchase a music CD for this material. We start together with some upbeat songs (on DVD and often led by older children) before we divide into groups.

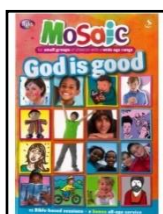
Flagstaff Community Church leaders Carolyn Sims and Ele Savage have used *Light* resources over a few years now with children aged 5- 12 years, fluctuating numbers (anything from 2 to 20) and have found it easy to use:

- Lots of ideas to choose from, easily tweaked – which we do a lot of.
- We do a link in church by sharing a bit on what we are teaching. Sometimes the congregation and children are learning the same thing – or you could make it happen like that. Go back through *Light* resources and find stories related to whatever the minister is teaching about.
- We buy one leaders manual at each level and mix and match a lesson according to the ages of children we have. The different books have the same session starting on the same page number which is helpful!
- Haven't bought the children's take home books –too \$\$\$ for us.
- *LightLive* (see below) although free can be hard to navigate. We still like a hard copy of the books to flick through.
- We have stopped using *Light* at the moment– had a bit of a 'same-ness' about it with similar stories coming up each year and other themes and stories that seemed to be missed out completely.
- Still access the on-line *LightLive* though to check what they have got on our current theme that we could use.
- *Light* would be good for someone who is just starting out teaching Sunday School – lots of choice and a supportive structure.

Scripture Union has a HUGE range of other resources to support ministry with children e.g. teacher resources on prayer, crafts, games, quizzes, Easter Christmas, Top Tip training booklets on many topics, Holiday Programmes, Bible reading at all age levels (preschool to adult) and more! See the online store for more details.

www.scriptureunion.org.nz

Also a multi-aged resource for Sunday mornings:



Mosaic

12 sessions suitable for a smaller number of children and a wide age range (3-14yrs) like many rural churches, small urban churches and new church plants.

Cost: \$22.99 per book.

2. LIGHTLIVE – Free online resources from SU

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Lightlive



An amazing option, especially if you are computer savvy and are familiar with the *Light* material, is to access the same printed *Light* resources for **FREE**

You can access thousands of activities, follow the *LightLive* syllabus and create sessions in a matter of minutes, or you can create your own syllabus for your group. Just register on the *LightLive* website then log in

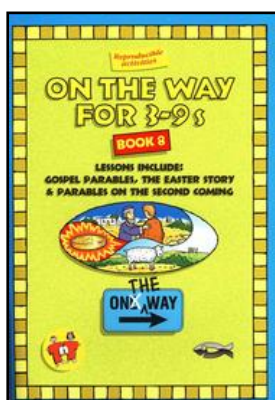
whenever you want resources.

Lawrence Presbyterian Church began with a small group of 4-6 children (preschool to 7yrs) which has been steadily growing. In late 2013 it is now often 12-15 children and 3 age groups. Christine Harrex has mastered the FREE *LightLive* resources:

- Its available online which means it's flexible and we can adapt it to specifically fit our needs. It works well for age related classes.
- The content has depth and the activities are varied and interesting with lots of choice.
- The children enjoy it and the teachers like teaching it. Everyone learns a lot together!
- Preparation time depends on the choices you make. There is so much to choose from! I spend 1 to 2 days preparing the lessons for three classes. This includes selecting activities, downloading resources, photocopying, sourcing equipment, preparing resources and setting up rooms.
- *Lightlive* (online) allows you to choose any series of lessons you like so it can fit your service theme if you want it to.
- It's amazing to have ALL these resources literally at my fingertips – from the UK to a small rural town in NZ for a voluntary donation once a year.

3. ON THE WAY

www.tntministries.org.uk



Includes: The three year syllabus consists of 14 books and covers the main Bible stories from Genesis to Acts with Christmas and Easter covered each year. There is also First Class (preschoolers) and On the Way 9-11s and On the Way 11-14s series of books.

Suitable for: a small group of children with a range of ages. One teacher book contains 9-14 weeks with 2-4 series of lessons. It is possible to join the course at any stage during its three year cycle.

Available from: Manna Books and other Christian bookstores.

Published by TnT ministries, Christian Focus Publications

See more information and samples at <http://www.tntministries.org.uk/ontheway3-9.php>

Cost: Approximately \$20 per book

What users say:

Several small churches around NZ are using these books:

- The teacher's book is easy to pass around if there is a roster of leaders.
- Lessons are set out with a clear aim, Bible study notes for the teacher, a lesson plan, suggestions for visual aids and three age-appropriate activities for 3-5s, 5-7s and 7-9 year olds.

- Tend to be paper type activities - colouring, puzzles etc and need to be supplemented with games and other crafts to make a more interesting and complete lesson.
- The three year syllabus is printed at the beginning of each book and it's good to see the overview of Bible stories and themes covered.
- You can choose a series to fit church themes and mix and match between the three years.

Mustard Seeds

Also produced by TNT MINISTRIES - <https://www.mustard-seeds.net/>

Is a new downloadable resource- Search, Download, Teach

Pay for the lesson units you order from £4 for 4 lessons, some free samples

Many to choose from to create your own year's programme

What users say:

"Mustard Seeds is an incredibly valuable resource for us in our children's ministry. It is very faithful to Scripture, affordable, well-written and easy to use. We love the way the material can be adapted for the wide range of ages from 3 to 11. Being in New Zealand, we really appreciate being able to simply download the material off the website, rather than getting books in".

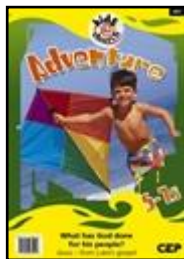
David, St Saviour's, Christchurch, New Zealand

C. Theme based units

The following resources are from 4 weeks to 10 weeks in length. Leaders can pick and mix themes and topics to fit into each term's calendar. Some, especially the newer curricula under *Others*, require audio visual equipment and often assume at least an hour's programme including a large group, high impact session before dividing into small age specific groups. Expectations of the number of children, available leaders, amount of preparation and cost may be beyond all but our larger churches. But again any resource is a tool for ministry with children and can be adapted to suit your situation.

1. KIDS@CHURCH, KIDS@CLUB, KIDSPLUS

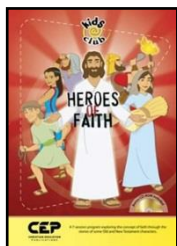
<http://www.cepstore.com.au>



Australian based Christian Education publications (CEP) for Sunday Schools, holiday and mid week programmes.

kids@church

10 week units, 3 levels: *Serious play* (3-5s), *Adventure* (5-7s), *Over the Top* (8-11s). Each level has a Teacher's Manual, Teacher's Pack and Child's Component.



kids@club

Themed 5 or 6 week programmes, good for churches with limited resources. (Topics include: Mini Olympics, Hard questions about God, Heroes of Faith, Light of the world.)



kidsPlus

Materials for at least 8 weeks with learning outlines for 3 age groups 3-5s, 5-7s, 8-11s. Includes take home resources for children. Creative and fun themed programmes including Click OK, Who is Jesus? (with a computer theme), Fruit Farm (fruit of the Spirit), Big Big stuff- God's BIG story.

Suitable for: Ages 3 to 11years. ***kids@church*** is for church programmes but the other two can easily be adapted for Sundays, especially where children have little Bible knowledge.

Available from: sales@cepstore.co.nz

Gail Hunter, CEP sales and marketing agent for NZ Phone (06) 357 0281

Cost: *kids@church* (each level) Teacher's pack (\$29.99 NZ)

Teacher's manual (\$17.95)

Children's leaflet (\$2.50)

Book \$29.95 each

Leader's pack \$40

Child's take home pack \$17.50 (pack of 20)

kids@club

kidsPlus

What users say:

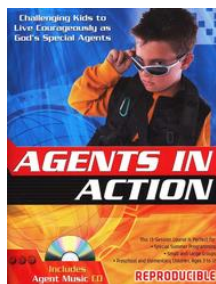
Leith Valley Presbyterian has used CEP resources over the last 8 years and seen their Sunday school grow from just a handful to about 40 children. Fran Dawson, their dedicated children's ministry leader, comments:

- I initially used the *kids@church* material but I had to adapt it a lot to make it work for our structure of beginning together and then dividing into groups. The 3 levels' material and themes did not always match up.
- Now I use *KidsPlus* where each programme is based on a theme e.g TV/Computer/Being Archaeologists/Sports teams/Survival etc which gives a bit of X-factor!
- There are suggestions for group time for each of three age groups 5-6's, 7-8's, 9-10's, which suits us as we break into groups after large group time.
- Has lots of suggestions for games and crafts
- It takes a bit of work to adapt it to fit the time we have available because it's designed for use as a holiday or after school programme. We pick and choose activities and often replace suggested activities with other things sourced from books or the internet.
- Lots of craft ideas.
- We like the child's take home pack that the children receive each week

EXTRAS! CEP also produce other teacher resources on Christmas, Easter, Great Ideas, Fantastic Crafts, Fantastic Games, Talks for Kids, Timeline Posters, Visual Aids packs and CD rom. It is handy to have some of these on the bookshelf too for adding extra activities to sessions. View and order more resources at <https://www.cepstore.com.au/childrens-ministry-books>

2. GOSPEL LIGHT

www.gospellight.com



Packs of this curriculum are available in some NZ Christian bookshops or search online stores such as Fishpond www.fishpond.co.nz and The Book Depository www.bookdepository.co.uk (both have free postage!).

Gospel Light also produces a series of "Big Books" on many topics to complement lessons: The Big Book of Crafts, Games, Skits and Puppet Plays, The Big Book of Science, The Big Book of Bible Facts etc

What users say: Rob Key from Hornby Presbyterian has used a couple of Gospel Light curriculum:

- '**Agents in Action**' was a ball. Good resources, a good range of activities, great songs to go with it on CD and only \$70 from Fishpond (online store).
- '**Rock Solid Kids**' on the life of the Apostle Paul was also great.

Flagstaff Presbyterian got a whole Gospel Light kit for a bargain:

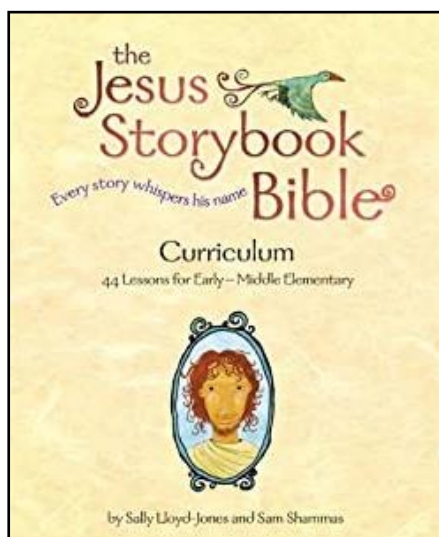
- We used the whole term programme initially, then over the years have been able to go back to it and find appropriate stories/activities to support our different themes. It was something different.
- Includes Big colourful pictures, Timeline, Teaching manual, Big colouring book, Big Book of Bible puzzles, CD
- Have used the colouring and puzzle book heaps.

St Heliers Presbyterian has used Gospel Light's "**Journeys with Jesus**".

Says Jill Kayser, volunteer leader: I think this is the best curriculum to introduce Jesus' life and stories to kids. It is very easy to follow, has a great range of art, drama, games etc. to choose from to reinforce the message.

3. THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE CURRICULUM

<http://www.jesusstorybookbible.com/>



This curriculum has 44 lessons and goes with the very successful *Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones, which beautifully retells some of the Bible's best known stories and weaves them altogether to tell God's Big Story.

"There are lots of stories in the Bible, but all the stories together tell one Big Story: The Story of how God loves his children and comes to rescue them. It takes the whole Bible to tell this Story. And at the centre of the Story, there is a baby."

Children will love the vivid illustrations and animated videos that bring to life Bible stories from both the Old and New Testament, all pointing to Jesus - and what that means for them!

Suitable for: recommended for 4-7 year olds (adaptable for older children too – see review below)

Includes:

The Jesus Storybook Bible hardcover edition

The Jesus Storybook Bible Audio CD Set (3 Discs)

DVD ROM containing 44 complete printable lessons with teaching notes based on material from Timothy Keller, memory verses, and four-color children's handouts with take-home notes, 44 animated bonus videos

Available from: Bible Society <http://www.biblesociety.org.nz/shop>

Kids Friendly has negotiated a very special deal on the Jesus Storybook Bible and the Curriculum kit from Bible Society of New Zealand for all our churches.

- The latest large trim hardcover bible is \$19.50 (RRP 29.99).
- The standard size hardcover is \$12.99 (RRP \$19.99).
- The Jesus Storybook bible hard cover with 3 CDs of the stories is \$22.75 (RRP \$34.99).
- Curriculum Kit \$90.99 (RRP \$139.99)

You can order these by [downloading the order form](#) and emailing it to orders@biblesociety.org.nz or fax it to (04) 805 0134, or phone 0800 424 253. To receive the special discounted price just quote: "**PCANZ: Special Church discounts on Jesus Story Book Bibles**"

What users say:

Highgate Presbyterian is using The Jesus Storybook Curriculum kit in 2013.

Judy Goroncy shares: The focus of this curriculum is to teach 'the Story beneath all the stories in the Bible'. I cannot recommend this curriculum highly enough. Too often, our children's programmes are so geared at entertainment, or are so diluted of content, that the true message of what Christ has done is lost. This programme takes seriously God's love, our sin, and that we need Jesus, our Saviour, to redeem us and our lost world.

- *The Jesus Storybook Bible (JSBB)* includes 21 stories from the Old Testament, and 23 from the New Testament.
- Each week's accompanying lesson is based on one of the stories and follows a similar structure – a time to recap previous stories, a relevant activity, the story time (which can be presented by either the teacher, or with the use of the accompanying DVD/CD), unpacking the story (technically called exegesis), reflection on Jesus's location in the story, prayer, learning the memory verse, and completion of a hand-out.
- One of the real strengths and blessings of the programme is that it is concerned at every point to teach the great Story of the Bible rather than focus attention on presenting a series of seemingly unrelated ancient religious stories that remain largely unconnected. In other words, every part of the JSBB is concerned to point to the One who is God's principal revelation; namely, Jesus. 'Every story in the Bible whispers his name'.
- Programme geared more towards children aged 4–7. However, up to 10 year olds all seem to benefit from and enjoy it too.
- Accounting for holidays and other 'interruptions', the curriculum takes about a year-and-a-half to work through.
- The lessons are easy to prepare, are clearly set out, and come with various helpful media aids.
- Because the lessons are presented chronologically, connections can be made between the stories and so enable children – and their teachers too – to build on what they have learnt in previous weeks.
- Hand-outs provide not only an opportunity for children to revisit the teaching and memory verses, but also assist and encourage parents/caregivers to be aware of what the kids are learning at Sunday School, and so encourage further discussions about the Story beyond the Sunday morning.
- Curriculum only used the JSBB but we encouraged children to bring their own Bibles to look up the verses/stories. We believe that it is vital for children to have an understanding that all the stories come from the 'actual' Bible and that they become familiar with and are able to look up books, chapters and verses in their own Bible.
- Children are enjoying opportunities to present what they have learnt to the rest of the congregation, typically through the Sunday morning service. They have presented an overview of the key events and people in the Old Testament so far, in the form of drama, Bible readings, memory verses and song – all bearing witness to God's Great Rescue Plan in Jesus.

4. ORANGE- FIRST LOOK, 252 BASICS, XP3

www.whatisorange.org



3 levels of curriculum:
 Preschool (First Look)
 Primary (252 Basics)
 Intermediates and Youth (XP3)

This curriculum is designed around the belief that church and family need to partner very intentionally to provide the greatest and longest lasting impact on the next generation. This includes Sunday curriculum for children and adults

Cost: Annual subscription depending on number of church members. All resources are downloaded from the website. While this curriculum is probably not 'user friendly' for most NZ churches, the principles of 'thinking orange' are!

Book: "THINK ORANGE" (about \$40 at Manna Books) is a great read if you want to be challenged to 'imagine the impact when church (YELLOW) and family (RED) collide.' What results is ORANGE and the belief that "Two combined influences make a greater IMPACT than just two influences."

Cheryl Harray, Kids Friendly Advisor is impressed with the thorough thinking behind the five Orange Essentials, described fully in "Think Orange." In particular, the work on #2 Refining the Message comes up with Key truths based on Matthew 22:34-41 (Jesus summary of all God's law into 2 sentences) The whole Orange curriculum is built around this with parents and teachers having the same end goal of helping children experience **wonder, discovery** and **passion**. This simple framework, described below, could be used as a guide in other curriculum too.

PRESCHOOL	CHILDREN	YOUTH
God made me	I can trust God no matter what	I am created to pursue an authentic relationship with my Creator
God loves me	I need to make the wise choice	I belong to Jesus Christ and define who I am by what He says
Jesus wants to be my friend forever	I should treat others the way I want to be treated	I exist everyday to demonstrate God's love to a broken world
Wonder	<i>Wonder</i>	<i>Wonder</i>
<i>Discovery</i>	Discovery	<i>Discovery</i>
<i>Passion</i>	<i>Passion</i>	Passion

5. D6

www.d62gen.com

In D6 every age group from babies to adults studies the same biblical theme each week. D6 (Randall House) is passionate about the church partnering with parents to disciple the next generation and provides many resources for home as well as the Sunday teaching material.

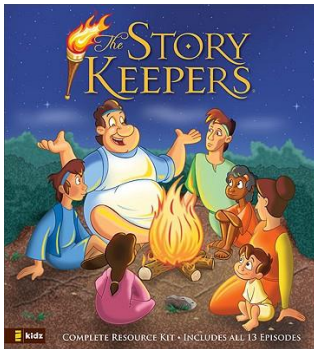
Cost \$US per items ordered.

6. DVD based series

Many curricula nowadays include some digital resources and there is plenty that can be accessed free through the internet (Youtube) Some curricula, like the ones below, use DVDs as the main teaching/input. This can be helpful for small teams who couldn't recreate dramas, songs, stories in the same way. Children do however have a lot of exposure to computers/DVDs these days so may or may not respond well to this method of presentation. Ensure there is plenty of interaction in the programme too. Below is a brief description of a few that may be worth investigating.

STORYKEEPERS

www.storykeepers.com/stories



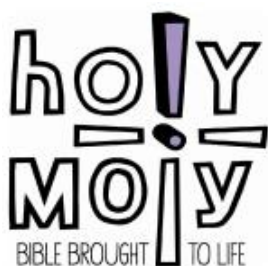
STORYKEEPERS is an animated video series (13 episodes) that tells the story of Ben the baker, and his wife Helena, who are Christians in Rome 64 A.D. They have adopted four children whose parents were lost during the fires set by Emperor Nero. The hope-giving stories and parables of Jesus are told in the course of their exciting adventures.

Some teaching resources have been developed (DVD plus handbook kit) and from the website it is obvious that the appeal of these excellent videos is to all ages.

Cost: Some of series are available on Youtube or purchase DVDs online. Also try online shops for the whole resource kit (about \$160 NZ)

HOLY MOLY – SPARKHOUSE

<http://store.augsburgfortress.org/store/productfamily/183/Holy-Moly>



Each Holy Moly lesson follows a 4 part sequence: Discover, Relate, Connect and Create. The animated Bible story (DVD) and activity jump starts kids' imaginations about what they'll see and do! This is reinforced through sharing and the colourful pages of the Holy Moly Bible Storybooks and Connect Bible, then creative activities that bring the stories to life. Designed for kids in preschool to year 5. **Connect** available for older children.

Do you speak HOLY MOLY? See the FUN explanation of these animated videos

<http://youtu.be/HAmMBC8y1Cw>

and a sample story of David and Goliath <http://youtu.be/jNBt6lYInE>

DVDs containing between 4-12 videos. Needs other resources/activities to supplement.

Cost: \$20-30 (U.S.)

HILLSONG KIDS- BIG

www.hillsongkids.com



2 x 12 week new curriculum. 3 themes with 4 lessons on each theme. Large DVD group teaching /small group activities. Worship DVDs and includes memory verse segment.

Cost: AUD\$229 or AUD\$363 for both

KIDMO

www.kidmo.com

Each series has five lessons. Highly interactive DVD based programme, needs high energy up front presenting. Has take home sheets. – MAP books. Memory Max (Bible verse memorisation) is fantastic. Includes worship and small group plans.

Contact website for sales through Australia

WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE church series curriculum also available through them.

ELEVATE

www.elevatepastors.com

8 week themes on DVD and Digital based packs to show or perform live. Can be used in a variety of settings. Large group and small group teaching for 1-2 hours. Includes songs.

Cost: Base Pack US\$159

FRIENDS and HEROES

www.friendsandheroes.com/uk

Friends and Heroes is a truly versatile resource. The stunning animated adventures cover over 80 stories from both the New and Old Testaments and are supported by easy-to-use lessons plans for a variety of settings: School and church. Try a [SAMPLE here](#). Lucy Moore (Messy Church UK) also recommends the short (2-3 min) music videos. They are excellent quality both in sound and images and the style is attractive to adults and children. (eg He chose the Shepherds- beautiful and powerful nativity story)

OASIS

www.oasischildrensresources.com

10 week programme broken into 3 parts - mission, discipling and ministry, each taking 3 weeks and a 10th week called Oasis celebration. Targets 7-11yrs, based around an hour long programme using video.

Now in DVD packs (\$145 each) Kaikorai Presbyterian, Dunedin www.kaikoraichurch.co.nz has 12 kits available for a small rental charge. – some DVD, older ones are video

7. OTHERS

A brief description is given below for a number of other theme based resources that may be worth researching, depending on your situation.

TAMMY TOLMAN- DISCOVERY LEARNING RESOURCES

<http://www.tammytolman.com/page/7/discovery-learning-material>

ENGAGE –The whole Bible in 4 years

The full 4 year curriculum features Lesson Plans, Activities, Games, Songs, Dramas and Stories.

Each of the 16 modules (around 10 weeks each) explore a theme, using key stories from different parts of the Bible.

Completing all 16 modules will give children both a strong understanding of the entire Bible AND the overarching story of salvation through Jesus.

Pick and mix and create your own. Australian based, purchase credits and use to buy as little or as much as you want.

1 complete module is about \$15 AUS

FAITHWEAVER, BUZZ, KIDS OWN WORSHIP and more!www.group.com/sunday-school

Check out at least 5 different Sunday school curriculums here to find the format and fit for your church. Age graded, large and small group, take home resources. An easy to navigate website outlining each different resource.

THE KING, THE SNAKE and THE PROMISE

www.reformers.org.au

This 10 week programme including songs designed to teach children (Aged 3-11yrs) a Bible overview using the arts of music and crafts.

All on a [CD including lessons](#), visuals, songs, sheet music. Each week you can also make a part of a banner that is a stunning visual story when completed. Use for a block of Sunday school, material for a holiday programme or after-school club.

Cost: About \$25 AUS (Kids Friendly has a copy to loan.)

KIDSREACH- DISCOVERY

www.kidsreach.org.nz

Discovery Club Curriculum is where the Bible comes alive for your children.

- A new topic every four weeks – keeps the kids interest.
- Full colour graphics on PowerPoint
- Illustrations for OHP or Digital Projector.
- Can buy in book format or, for better value, on USB Flashdrive.
- Complete program in each book, including stories, object lessons, craft ideas, visual aids., etc
- Strong emphasis on the Bible story, memory verse and a relevant topic/discipleship point.
- Easy for teachers and workers to use so more time can be spent on important preparation.

Discovery Club Titles

- 1 Faith
- 2 Destiny - *we are all here for a purpose.*
- 3 Church - *I Love My Church*
- 4 Prayer - *Praying the ACTS way*
- 5 Called 4A Mission
- 6 The Tongue - *controlling what we say*
- 7 The ABC Of Witnessing
- 8 Being Friendly
- 9 The Bible - *learning about the Bible*
- 10 Giving God's Way - *how to give.*
- 11 The 4-Rs Of Salvation
- 12 Christmas *Jesus Is The Reason*
- 13 Born to Fly - *like an eagle*
- 14 Easter - The Greatest Gift Of All
- 15 AD33 Being Filled With The Holy Spirit
- 16 I Am Somebody Special
- 17 No Fear -*overcoming fear*

- 18 God Is No.1 The Sovereignty Of God
- 19 Super Heroes
- 20 God's Rules - *The Ten Commandments*
- 21 The Ultimate Challenge
- 22 Esther - *call to prayer*
- 23 The Armour of God
- 24 Making Choices
- 25 Not Lost
- 26 Mission Is Possible
- 27 Fruit of the Spirit
- 28 Away in a Manger - *Christmas*
- 29 God is My Helper
- 30 Run to Win - *based on Olympic Games*
- 31 Creation
- 32 Be a History Maker
- 33 Heart of the Father
- 34 REACH- *reaching out*
- 35 Celebrate Children - *seeing all as Gods kids.*
- 36 Tricky Questions - *discussing the hard questions about faith and life.*

How to purchase -3 options

1. Option 1. Books – includes a printed copy of all the text and material, plus downloadable power points. You also get a downloadable copy of the text and material so it can be easily shared amongst your team. Cost is \$35 per topic (plus postage). Each topic runs for 4 weeks.
2. Option 2. 10 topics on one USB-Flashdrive – enough to last a full year of teaching. This is a great option for the budget conscious. The ten topics will cost you \$108 including free postage to anywhere. You get to choose which topics you want.
3. Option 3 - Best Value Option – get all 36 topics on one flashdrive for just \$324. All the advantages of the '10 topics' but you get an additional 6 topics for free. This will give you 4-5 years of teaching material.

LOGOS Productions Ltd

www.logosproductions.com/content/sunday-school-curriculum-0

This is a website that offers seven Sunday School curricula which are widely used across a number of denominations in the US. (Crossings for Kids, Come join the Circle, Worship for Life, Seasons of the Spirit, Witness, Awaken Sunday School and Grow-Proclaim-Serve.) There are helpful tools for choosing a curriculum and information and samples of each.

Cost: Prices and availability vary \$US

D. FREE curriculum!

MAX7

www.max7.org



This is an internet site that provides FREE resources for children's ministry, including curriculum, great videos and music for download. People are constantly adding resources from around the world. You would need some time to put individual resources together into a whole teaching series or theme but it is worth a good look and keeping in mind when

you want to supplement your material with something 'extra' Some great videos!

MISSION ARLINGTON

www.missionarlington.org

For free curriculum on all the major Old and New Testament stories. New Units added every term. Includes preschool and primary levels of ideas for teaching and activities. Website easy to navigate and find relevant topics and activities.

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD AND THE WAY

www.resourcewell.org/children-ministry/curriculum



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Craig Irwin children's ministry leader at Knox Lower Hutt uses this FREE curriculum.

Over 150 lessons explore the stories of God from Genesis to Revelation in a three-year cycle. Individual age group components include teacher guides, drama and puppet scripts, storybooks, games, crafts, snacks, Bible Memory Verse Songs, a take-home Bible study and more.

LIGHTLIVE – Free online resources from SU

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Lightlive



In case you missed it in the 3-4 year curriculum section... The curriculum is divided into themes of about 4-6 weeks each so some could be used for a term or a season as well as a full 3 year cycle. This is an amazing FREE option, especially if you are computer savvy and are familiar with how the *Light* material is set out.

For all the details refer back to section B



KIDS GAMES Curriculum and more

www.kidsgames.com

'The best kid thing on earth' KidsGames is a sports and games programme begun in 2001 for children aged 6-14 years. Ideas, training, video footage and curriculum resources have been contributed by people from all over the world. Everything you download from this site was written by a team of people representing many nations. All the resources are FREE to use as long as you follow the [Global Community Games Guidelines](#). There are currently six themes as 10 week (or adaptable to 5 week) programmes. They use

experiential learning through games, introduce Bible stories and apply it all to real life situations. Topics include: Champions, Champions Change the World, Joseph, Paul, Becoming a Complete player, Running the Race.

For more information and training in NZ contact:

Sue Morris sue.morris@quantumsport.com

Sue's role as part of the Christian Sports Network (still continuing as at Nov 2013) is to 'serve the local church through the sharing of ideas, resources and training around using sports to reach communities. Our vision from a global perspective is Every City Every Nation...with a vision to reach every child on the earth for Jesus.' Kids Games curriculum is designed to be taught over a period of weeks in individual churches who then bring all the children together in their teams for amazing town or city wide Kids games ceremonies and world championship events. These are hugely popular and successful in many countries around the world. See the videos on the website to catch all the energy and fun!

E. Rotational workshop Sunday school model

www.rotation.org

This "curriculum" requires a slightly different way of doing "Sunday School".

1. Classrooms become creative workshops e.g. Art, Drama, Games, Computer, Video, cooking etc.
2. Different classes rotate to different workshops each week.
3. All the workshops teach the same Bible story for a 4 to 6(or less) week "rotation."
4. Teachers stay put in the workshop teaching the same lesson each week to a new group.
5. The story gets explored and learned in-depth through a variety of creative teaching mediums.
6. The kids look forward to a different learning experience, teacher, and room each week.
7. The teachers don't have to plan a new lesson each week. Instead, they plan once every four or five weeks, modify their basic lesson each week for a slightly different age group, and get better and more creative as the weeks pass,--teaching in the workshop of their choice and preferred teaching style.

Kaila Pettigrove of Somervell Presbyterian discovered it on a trip to the United States and adapted it for their '**Triple S**' (Somervell Sunday School). "Our kids love it and more people are volunteering than ever before!"

"The **Workshop Rotation Model** (WRM) is based on the multi-intelligence educational theory that teaches in a variety of fun and engaging ways. The same Bible story or theme is taught for several weeks using different learning styles. Groups of children participate in workshops to engage with the story in creative ways. For example, when we taught the story of Joseph, we rotated the children through workshops as below":

Age	5-8 years	8-10 years
Week 1	Art	Drama
Week 2	Drama	Art
Week 3	Games	Cooking
Week 4	Cooking	Games

"The beauty of it is that each teacher/workshop leader only has to prepare one lesson and adjusts it for the age groups. We ran two workshops at a time with leaders teaching two weeks in a row."

"I was originally worried about needing more teachers, but because they only have to teach two weeks in a row AND they are teaching the same lesson and using their strengths, it's a lighter and more appealing commitment. For the first time people are coming up to me and offering to lead a workshop using their gifts. It's a wonderful way to get to know the adults in our congregation and the children have more adult friends now too. John Kernohan our session clerk and keen gardener ran a nature workshop where he taught children how to prune and talked about pruning our "bad habits" to make room for the fruit of the Spirit.

What do the children say?

"I like the way we all get to do so many cool things. I like that it is not like school lessons. We do fun activities not activity sheets," says David.

What do the teachers think?

"It's fun and manageable so we now have far more volunteers involved in the Sunday children's ministry and better bonds are being created between Triple S children and our congregation," says Dorothy.

"I loved illustrating how God uses crushing times (like in Joseph's life) to bring about blessings. I gave each child a ziplock bag of Oreo cookies and asked them how they felt? As expected they expressed joy. I then took a wooden spoon and crushed them and asked the children how they felt. They said sad. We then used crushed Oreos to make icecream sundaes. The children LOVED it and it made the other group of children determined to come back the next Sunday!"

Are the children actually learning?

"I like that it's really clear what we are learning about. We have been learning what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and that the best way to "fish for people" is to share God's love," says David.

"This way of teaching has positively impacted our attendance with children wanting to return the next week to do the activity their sibling did the week before!" says Kaila.

What type of commitment is required?

This model does ideally require a coordinator. However, if your church doesn't have a children's minister or Sunday School coordinator then it could be managed by a very competent committee.

Although this is an American curriculum, it is available online and can be downloaded in minutes. The initial outlay is inexpensive, but there are photocopying costs and other creative materials to gather. If other churches are interested in trying this teaching method we could swap our units. The possibilities are endless.

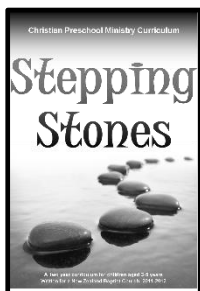
F. Resources for PRESCHOOLERS

Kids Friendly observes that many churches run wonderful mid-week music and movement programmes or playgroups and there can be a natural invitation and interest from parents to bring the children along on Sunday mornings too. A preschool programme that happens in the same space, with some of the same routines and leaders can make this transition really easy and give more opportunities to share Bible stories, activities and prayer with the families.

Check out three helpful [Kids Friendly resources](#):

- Establishing a Ministry to pre-schoolers and their families. [Download](#)
- Strengthening bridges- connecting outreach families and the Church [Download](#)
- Songs Rhymes and prayers for Preschoolers [Download](#)

STEPPING STONES



Stepping Stones is a FREE, homegrown NZ resource from the Baptist Church of NZ

Each lesson contains: teaching scripts, craft activities and colouring pages, take home sheets and uses The Beginner's Bible

To order digital files for 8 weeks of "Creation" lessons and/or "Walking with Jesus" lessons (includes Easter) contact elke.keeling@ihug.co.nz

UNDER 5 ALIVE

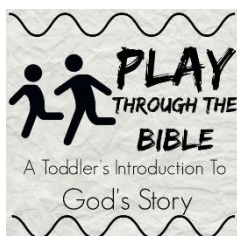
[St John's Rotorua](#) has made some of their programmes available through the Kids Friendly network. A pdf of any of these can be sent to you by jill@kidsfriendly.org.nz.

Curriculum topics for 4-6 week units include:

Under five alive (preschoolers): Prayer, God is with us, Love is, Trust in God, God's Heroes, Not Ashamed

PLAY THROUGH THE BIBLE

<http://www.simplelifemessylife.com/play-through-the-bible/>



Play Through The Bible is a super fun series chronicling all the activities a mum did with her children as they their way through a children's Bible at a toddler level. She has helpfully posted all the ideas in one spot!

Tiddlywinks

www.scriptureunion.org.nz



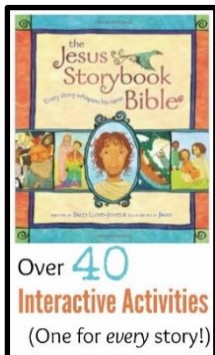
25 Multi-purpose outlines written especially to encourage children in their earliest years (preschoolers). Topics like God's wonderful world, let's find out about Jesus, What God gives us...

Cost: \$31.99 per book.

Leith Valley Dunedin uses the Tiddlywinks range of books with their preschool group of 10 children. The leaders like:

- the range of activities
- Easy storyline
- Good creative prayers
- Craft ideas that reinforce the story

JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE – HANDS ON ACTIVITIES



Some of the Jesus Story Book Bible curriculum kit, already mentioned, has ideas that can be adapted for under 5s too but check out these fantastic ideas!

<http://www.mymundaneandmiraculouslife.com/jesus-storybook-bible-hands-activities>

This link takes you to the gathered links from some terrific bloggers who came up with interactive, hands-on learning activities for *each* of the 44 chapters - activities, craft, science experiments or object lesson to bring the truth of the Word, off the pages and into the hearts and minds of kids.

Helpful Websites

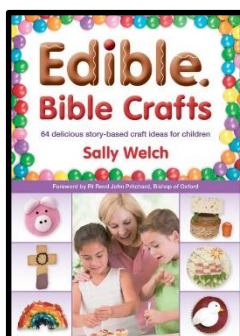
www.dltk-bible.com- Bible crafts and resources for children- search 'preschool'

www.biblekidsfunzone.com- Lots of Bible themed lessons for ages 2-3 and 4-5yrs

www.perpetualpreschool.com -more crafts, activities and lessons

www.mssscrafts.com -including *Clementine's Corner* - special program ideas for tiny ones!

<http://www.ci2eye.com/> Support and resources for those working with young children – building a strong foundation from a Christian world view



Edible Bible Crafts This book by Sally Welch will have wide appeal- it uses food! Brings the Bible to life for 3-11s with her range of edible crafts, covering twelve Old Testament stories, twelve New Testament stories and eight key festivals from the church year. Each unit gives the Bible story in a children's version, a short reflection on the passage, and a sweet and a savoury recipe idea.

G. Resources for Older Children

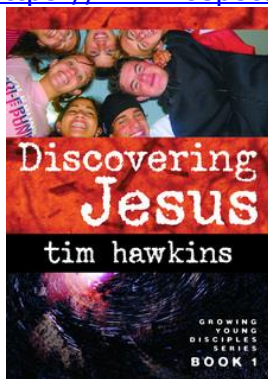
Kids Friendly is regularly asked "Have you got any suggestions for material for our older children, say 10-12 year olds? They are losing interest in the content/activities of the programme with the younger children."

This 'tween-age' has always been a challenge as they grow up and move from accepting everything on offer to wanting to question, discuss, contribute and see enough reasons to get out of bed and come!

Relationships with leaders and peers become vitally important for this age group. They need a safe place to question and explore how the God of the Bible stories relates to their everyday life.

Growing Young Disciples- Tim Hawkins

<https://www.cepstore.com.au/growing-young-disciples>



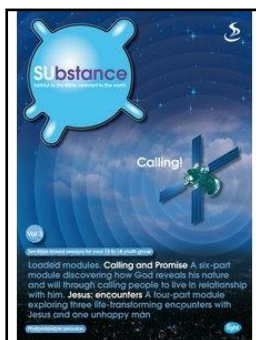
A series of 5 books for 11-14 yr olds. (Discovering Jesus, First steps, Life to the Max, Dealing with Doubt, Sticking with it.) Each book has 5 interactive studies and there is a GYD Leader's Guide which is a goldmine of information to get the most out of each book.

Jennie McCulloch from [Waitara](#) finds this material good for new Christians in the older primary/intermediate age group

Cost: A\$5.95 per book
Leaders Guide A\$12.95

Substance - SU

www.scriptureunion.org.nz



Each of the *Substance* books contain 10 sessions with a thematic approach to exploring and delving into the Bible. (Creation, Kingdom, Calling, Truth and Life, Telling Others, Reality Check). Easy-to-use, highly adaptable leaders' material will help you create sessions that encourage and challenge, engage and equip, and allow for times of quiet reflection, alongside loud debate, laughter, and in-depth Bible study. Could be a little old but may be work for an intermediate aged group.

SU store also has other material suitable for 11-14yrs

Cost: \$25.99 per book

Big Questions-CEP

www.cepstore.com.au/c/80/big-questions



This is part of the CEP school curriculum in Australia for RE (not generally used in NZ) and may have some suitable topics. Clear lesson aims and outcomes, a simple-to-follow lesson plan, teaching tips, Bible background and extension ideas. Often accompanied by a CD-ROM of music, movie and PPTs. Encourages students to express their own questions and to reflect on their own relationship with God.

Cost: Teacher manuals (AUD\$32.50)

Student activity books (AUD\$4.55) each. (2 per year)

Max7.org

Has lots of good free curriculum and great animation DVD's which would appeal to older children. It will take some time to sift through the content and adapt to your context.

Investigator's Inc

Essential Jesus Challenge for Children

<http://biblesociety.org.nz/shop/e100-and-essential-jesus#essentialjesus>

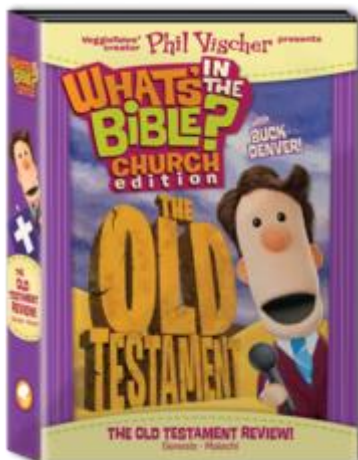
Is a series of 20 interactive lessons which accompanies the weekly Essential Jesus readings from the Bible Society. There is a leader's guide and 20 **Investigator's Inc. Children's Collectable Cards**. Content and activities appeal to older primary children.

Costs: Investigator's Inc. Leaders' Guide (20 week curriculum) - \$20 each

Investigator's Inc. Children's Card Box Set (20 collector cards) - \$3 each

What's In the Bible?

www.whatsinthebible.com



Let VeggieTales creator Phil Vischer and a bunch of hilarious new friends explain the entire Bible to your kids in this groundbreaking, fast-paced, and fun-filled DVD series!

Includes: 9 DVDs (2 sessions of 25 mins per DVD) that cover the Old Testament plus an OT review DVD for leaders.

There is also a 40 week curriculum kit using all these DVDs available with lots of supporting resources for teachers. (online price expensive)

Cost: \$19.99 per DVD from Manna Christian Stores

www.manna.co.nz

Helpful websites for intermediates:

www.youthgroupgames.com.au

www.insight.typepad.co.uk

www.creativeyouthideas.com

www.dlampel.com

www.creativebiblestudy.com

www.padfield.com

www.TheSource4YM.com

H. Homegrown and available to share

KIDS IN TOUCH

St John's Rotorua has made some of their programmes available through the Kids Friendly network. A pdf of any of these can be sent to you by jill@kidsfriendly.org.nz.

Curriculum topics for 4-6 week units include:

Kids in Touch (5-12 years): Prayer, I am, God's Heroes, Christmas, Purpose Driven Life

FIRST KIDS

For over 8 years the team at [First Kids Papakura](http://www.firstkids.org.nz) has been producing their own exciting teaching programmes that have captivated children from both inside and outside the church.

Topics include: **Destiny** -finding hope and purpose, **The Ten Commandments**, **God's Power Workout** – Become strong in God, **Survivor** - Finding God's answers to life's struggles, **Hearing God**, **Followers**.

"This stuff is really cool." (Kidzone boy participant age 11).

"We thought about going to another church but my son loves Kidzone so much, we just have to stay." (Parent)

"I get just as much out of the programmes as the kids do. I'm growing not only through serving but through the children learning (Kidzone leader).

Cost: Each theme has up to 8 lessons and only costs about \$20 per theme. Contact Warrick Baty for more information or to purchase warrick@firstchurchpapakura.org.nz

3. Other Helpful Resources

A. Bibles

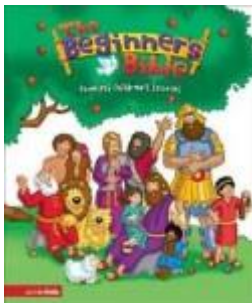
Every curriculum should be centred around opening God's Word with children. It is important to use a Bible with language that children at different ages and stages can understand. There are many suitable Bibles available. Visit your local Christian Bookshop to look at the selection.

Prices below are from the Bible Society store www.biblesociety.org.nz. For a comparison search online stores such as Fishpond www.fishpond.co.nz and The Book Depository www.bookdepository.co.uk (both have free postage!).

Below are some Bibles that Kids Friendly recommend:

1. Children's Story Book Bibles

THE BEGINNERS BIBLE



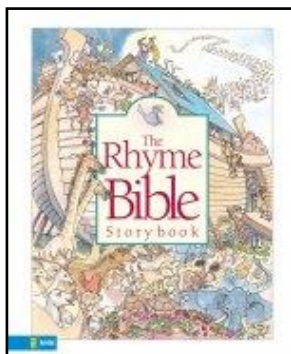
The Beginners Bible is an ideal first Bible for young children with over 90 favourite Bible stories coming to life through simple text and colourful, fun illustrations on every page.

A good Bible to present to parents when a baby is baptised or as a 'graduation' gift from churches' preschool community outreach ministries (e.g. mainly music)

Published by ZonderKids,

Cost: \$29.99 (bulk deals available from Bible Society)

THE RHYME BIBLE STORY BOOK



By Linda Sattgast, published by Zonderkids

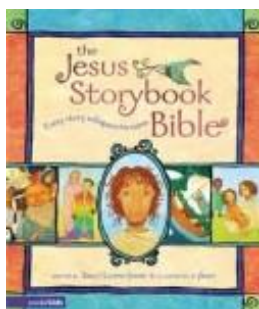
Boys and girls - even toddlers - love the soothing sound of rhyme! 35 classic Bible stories retold in lilting verse and rollicking, read-aloud rhyme.

Again Kaila Pettigrove comments: *"The rhymes are not forced and very clever. The paraphrase often gets right to the heart of the story... even some of the more difficult ones."*

Rhyme Bible cost: \$36.99

Rhyme Bible for Toddlers cost: \$24.99

THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE



By Sally Lloyd-Jones, published by ZonderKids

The Jesus Storybook Bible is brilliant to read to your child/group of children or all ages. Everyone will be wanting to hear more about the God who loves them and comes to rescue them.

The stories are woven together beautifully with this recurring theme and as Sally says: "It takes the whole Bible to tell this story. And at the centre of the Story is a baby. Every story whispers his name.... He is like the missing piece in the puzzle....the Child on whom everything would depend..."

A great Bible for parents to read to their children at home, a chapter a day- at teatime, bedtime, breakfast - whatever time works best.

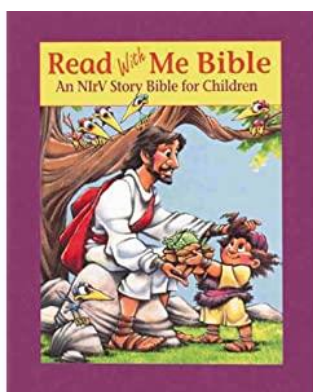
Kaila Pettigrove of Somervell Presbyterian recommends this Bible: *"It's a paraphrase version, but it's done with such love and sensitivity! My seven-year-old commented that, "This Bible is great for children of ALL ages because it explains the WHOLE Bible in a way that is very easy to understand." She's right! It doesn't just give a paraphrased version of a few selected stories, but it starts from the beginning and puts everything into the context of Jesus sent to us because God loves us!"*

Cost: Kids Friendly has negotiated a very special deal on the Jesus Storybook Bible and the Curriculum kit from Bible Society of New Zealand for all our churches.

- The latest large trim hardcover bible is \$19.50 (RRP 29.99).
- The standard size hardcover is \$12.99 (RRP \$19.99).
- The Jesus Storybook bible hard cover with 3 CDs of the stories is \$22.75 (RRP \$34.99).
- Curriculum Kit \$90.99 (RRP \$139.99)

You can order these by [downloading the order form](#) and emailing it to orders@biblesociety.org.nz or fax it to (04) 805 0134, or phone 0800 424 253. To receive the special discounted price just quote: **"PCANZ: Special Church discounts on Jesus Story Book Bibles"**

READ WITH ME BIBLE



This book of 106 well-loved Bible stories is based on the NIV and preserves much of its wording and flavour. Every page contains fresh, colourful art which can be scanned as you retell the story.

Cost: \$29.99

OTHERS

Every church should invest in a really good children's Bible with great illustrations. Kids Friendly also recommends:

The **Barnabas Children's Bible** that can be ordered from www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk

Lectionary Story Bible by Ralph Milton and illustrated by Margaret Kyle. Available from www.mediacom.org.au

For more information on **Animated Old Testament Bible stories** and **Audio Bible stories** go to Recommended Resources at www.kidsfriendly.org.nz

And please email jill@kidsfriendly.org.nz with your Kids Friendly recommendations for Children's Bibles.

2. Bible Translations and Paraphrases

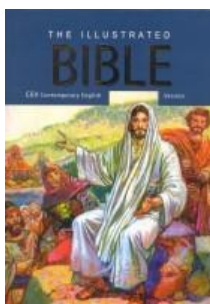
These Bibles use contemporary language for reading to younger children, for older children to read themselves or rework the text easily into a drama or puppet play.

GOOD NEWS BIBLE



Good News translation with 36 pages of artwork, maps, charts, concordance, dictionary and subject index and more. Good for older children as first 'read your own' Bible. Hardcover: \$17.95

CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH VERSION



Illustrated Children's version with exquisite illustrations throughout and presentation of the easy-to-understand text in an appealing manner. Some extras.

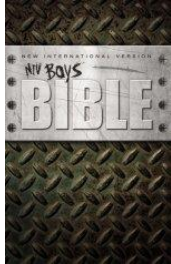
Cost: \$34.95

See also the CEV Wisdom Children's Bible series

Each book has 14 Bible stories in CEV easy-to-read translation and full illustrations.

Cost: \$12.95 each

NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION



The NIV Boys Bible was created especially for boys ages 9 to 12 and helps them grow into the young men God wants them to be. Fun in-text features help boys dig deep into the Word and learn about amazing people, facts, and stories of the Bible.



Faithgirlz! Bible-NIV is packed with exciting features that help girls 9-14yrs better understand themselves and Scripture. It teaches girls that the Bible is real, relevant, and, best of all, that the story of God and his people is also their story.

THE MESSAGE – The Bible in Contemporary Language

by Eugene Petersen is also worth looking at, particularly for dramatised readings, plays etc that capture the essence of Bible stories and Jesus teaching with refreshingly up to date images. Many versions available.

B. Faith box

www.faithbox.co.nz



The Faith box is not a Sunday curriculum but a great NZ resource for encouraging parents to establish a 20 minute weekly family time of learning and worship - delivered in a box/tin! It is designed to be creative, fun and interactive and to build strong family memories as well as teach the whole story of the gospel.

Churches can encourage their families to use it and may link a Sunday sharing time or programme content to it, especially when it covers the church seasons like Christmas and Easter etc

Cost: The Faith Box \$49.95, additional volumes \$25, 4 week downloads

C. Websites

Some helpful websites with many free resources for children's ministry:

www.sermons4kids.com – for stories and activity sheets based on the lectionary- including wonderful PowerPoint stories by Henry Martin

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/Lightlive
for free downloads of LIGHT curriculum

www.max7.org – for free curriculum

www.missionarlington.org – for free curriculum on all the major Old and New Testament stories. Includes preschool and primary levels of ideas for teaching and activities.

www.homiliesbyemail.com – for free activity sheets on lectionary themes

www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk – look under ideas for lots of lessons and themes and games etc

www.ministry-to-children.com Thousands of free resources and ministry ideas to use. Complete Sunday School, Bible, Children's Church lessons ready to use or adapt.

www.childrensermons.com - over a hundred sermons for children that takes 5 minutes to present and each has a summary and a bible reference.

www.ebibleteacher.com - has a range of material available to download. They also have free MP3 songs available to download.

www.calvarycurriculum.com/curriculum Whole lessons or choose parts for 3yr olds up

www.teachsundayschool.com - gives you lesson plans, activities, useful strategies to engage with the children and families. A subscription is required.

www.bibleforchildren.org – colourful Bible stories

www.lostsheep.au – Bright cartoon pictures, Bible stories with humour. Download individual stories for \$10 each including PPT and presenters booklets. Supporting activity sheets and additional ideas. Try the FREE sample of Cecil the Sheep (the Parable of the Lost Sheep)

www.kidssundayschool.com – Lots of free game ideas

www.childrensministry.com - has age appropriate activities, games and lessons.

www.sundayschoolnetwork.com – Many resources are free but some require a small download fee. Good devotions and crafts that can be linked with lessons

www.dltk-bible.com - a good range of Bible lessons including Bible story, related crafts, games, colouring pages, printable puzzles etc

www.mssscrafts.com - for lots of craft ideas for over 100 Bible stories

www.biblekidsfunzone.com –Crafts and lesson material for two separate age groups: 2-3 year olds and 4-5 year olds. Subscription for lesson themes but a lot of free material too.

www.daniellesplace.com - has a range of activities to choose from that relate to Bible stories.

www.puzzlemaker.com Create a variety of word puzzles relating to a particular theme or Bible Story. Kids love this site too and are able to create their own. Homework to bring back the next week!

www.sundayschoolcrafts.com - a free resource with some creative ideas, various crafts, recipes, activities.

www.openclipart.org – free clip art

D. Kids Friendly Resourcing, Coaching and Training

www.kidsfriendly.org.nz

The Kids Friendly team is here to help YOU! We don't generally write curriculum (except for our four Christmas lessons,) but have produced more than 30 resources to support and encourage you in ministry with children and families.

For Sunday ministries see our [Kids Friendly Sunday](#) resources including:



A Kids Friendly Welcome



Kids Friendly Worship



Praying with Children



Planning a Kids Friendly Children's Programme

The Kids Friendly coaches also offer a range of training workshops for those working with children including:



Help there's a child in my church – worshipping with children



A Kids Friendly Sunday



Tell us another one – creative storytelling



Planning your children's ministry year – developing a strategic plan



Equipping our leaders – creative teaching skills

For a list of all our workshops see [Kids Friendly Workshops](#)

We can also design workshops specifically to fulfil your needs.

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This resource has been chosen as a 'Favourite from our Kids Friendly Archives'. Please note the author(s) of this resource no longer work on our team. To contact our team, please visit our PCFM website: <https://pcfcm.org.nz/contact/>