

Curriculum Survey

This survey is a tool to help you choose the best curriculum for your congregation. Mark the answer or answers (some choices will be similar) that best fits your faith formation program or needs. Total your responses for each letter at the bottom of the page. The results may help to focus your attention on one or two curriculum choices that suit your congregation's needs.

1. Focus of Sunday School

What are your priorities for children's Sunday school?

- A. ___ An open environment encourages children to engage with biblical stories through listening, touching, and responding with art, and to ask questions.
- B. ___ Sunday school, worship, and serving are connected.
- C. ___ Children have interactive experiences that help them engage with familiar Bible stories.
- D. ___ The great stories of the Bible help children make meaning of everyday life.
- E. ___ Activities and interactions between peers and leaders make Bible stories come alive.

2. Class Structure

How do you want children to be able to gather together?

- A. ___ Children of mixed ages experience a story together and respond to it both as a group and individually.
- B. ___ Graded groups across all ages have coordinated themes, including in worship.
- C. ___ Groups of children move together to different activity areas.
- D. ___ Graded groups stay with one leader for a quarter or an extended number of sessions.
- E. ___ Mixed ages of children are together in one room with a variety of age-appropriate activities provided.

3. The Practice of Faith

How will what children learn help them live out their faith in daily life?

- A. ___ Story and discovery help children come to know, experience, and be aware of God and the sacred aspects of life.
- B. ___ Learning to live faithfully is a lifelong practice that includes worship, service, and education.
- C. ___ Experiential learning that emphasizes children's individual gifts will help children internalize and live the story.
- D. ___ Learning biblical stories will equip and nourish all to connect God and daily life.
- E. ___ Interactions with other people, biblical stories, and faith traditions help learners incorporate God's presence in their lives.

4. The Bible

How should the Bible be used in children's ministry?

- A. ___ Children have innate spirituality. By showing and telling Bible stories and conversing about them, we help children find language to express their faith.
- B. ___ The Bible has meaning in today's world. The weekly lectionary guides our learning, worship, and living.
- C. ___ The Bible is a foundation for Christian living. By focusing on a story for more than one week and using multiple learning styles, we can instill the Bible's meaning more deeply.
- D. ___ The Bible contains stories we treasure and want to fully understand so they have meaning for our lives.
- E. ___ The Bible is one way through which we can know and understand God. We also experience God through relationships, experiences, and faith traditions.

5. Session Approach

How will the children experience the lesson each week?

- A. ___ Bible stories will be lovingly told and demonstrated using hand-crafted materials.

- B. ___ They will see that worship, daily life, arts, and education are connected to Bible stories.
- C. ___ Bible stories will be internalized over several weeks of experiential interpretations.
- D. ___ They will learn to make meaning of Bible stories and apply them to daily life.
- E. ___ They will hear, experience, and engage with others to explore the meaning of Bible stories and faith traditions.

6. Class Calendar and Time

How much time is available for each session? For how many weeks will the sessions meet?

- A. ___ Up to one hour September–May, following the church seasons
- B. ___ Up to one hour for up to 52 weeks following the church seasons
- C. ___ Flexible, schedule may vary
- D. ___ Up to one hour and for up to 52 weeks
- E. ___ Up to one hour, focusing on one theme for several weeks

7. Teacher Resources

What types of resources will be provided to the volunteer teachers?

- A. ___ Detailed story scripts and instructions for using three-dimensional storytelling materials
- B. ___ Leader guides with biblical background and worship connections, art posters, music books and CDs, and reproducible learner resources
- C. ___ Unit guides detailing creative projects and experiences, music CDs, and reproducible learner resources
- D. ___ Teacher guides, music CDs, colourful student resources, and class kits
- E. ___ 1. Simple leader's guide with reproducible learner resources
___ 2. Teacher guides, music CDs, reproducible learner resources, and class kits

8. Preparation Required

What is an average amount of time desired for teacher preparation?

- A. ___ After initial storytelling training, one hour per session, plus time to gather materials
- B. ___ One hour per session, plus time to gather materials
- C. ___ Initial preparation may take two to five hours, but then repeated sessions lessen ongoing preparation time
- D. ___ One hour per session, plus time to gather materials
- E. ___ One hour per session, plus time to gather materials

Totals

Count the number of times you checked each letter and write the totals below. Each letter corresponds to at least one of the recommended curriculum options. Check out the curriculum chart and curriculum evaluations to learn more about each option.

A. ___ B. ___ C. ___ D. ___ E. ___

A. Godly Play

B. Seasons of the Spirit or Whole People of God

C. Power XPress, Come Join the Circle, or Firelight

D. Bible Quest

E. 1. Piece by Piece, 2. One Room Sunday School

The next step in choosing a curriculum for your congregation would be to obtain a sample session and use the curriculum evaluation tool to assess its suitability. For a copy of the curriculum evaluation tool visit www.united-church.ca/curriculum.