

**Youth Ministry**  
**Curriculum for Youth Group Meetings and Sunday school classes**  
**DVD's**

***The Creation Chronicles With Ted and Lee.*** Ted and Lee, 1999. Although this does not come with a study guide, Ted and Lee are always winners. This 90 minute DVD is divided into six sections that cover creation, Cain and Abel, the flood, the tower of Babel, Abraham, the golden calf, Jericho, Samuel, Solomon, Jeremiah, Jonah, and more. Junior/Senior High

***Fish Eyes On Stage.*** Ted and Lee Theater Works, 2001. Film version of the Ted and Lee stage show that tells biblical stories of following Jesus through the eyes of the disciples Andrew and Peter. Junior/Senior High (**See below for curriculum**)

- ***An Insider's View of Jesus by Todd Temple.*** Youth Specialties, 2003. Interactive curriculum uses clips from ***Fish Eyes On Stage*** to examine discipleship. Junior/Senior High

***Don't Sit On Your Stuff: A Bible Study For Youth,*** Youth, Mennonite Media, 2002. Three segments that encourage youth to be good stewards of their time, money and spiritual gifts. The DVD starts with a Ted and Lee skit, then goes to the story of a youth group's support of a friend with cancer and ends with scripture stories on giving and an original song entitled, "Gift of Grace". 21 minutes, study guide included. Junior/Senior High

**Nooma Series** This is a very popular series used in Albany Synod churches, many titles appropriate for Senior High use. (Be sure you view them first.) These modern day parables in DVD form run 12-14 minutes with scripture and questions in the film text. More detailed five-pack discussion guides are available at [zondervan.com/ministry](http://zondervan.com/ministry).

***Rain:*** God's comfort during the storms of life.

***Flame:*** Love as God intended it to be for us.

***Trees:*** Meaning for our lives, today and forever.

***Noise:*** How can we hear God through the noise around us?

***Kickball:*** Why doesn't God always give us what we want?

***Name:*** Live more in tune with the life God wants for us.

***Tomato:*** Where does our value come from?

***She:*** Are we missing a fundamental part of God's nature?

***Shells:*** Are we missing out on something great?

***Store:*** What is really the root of our anger?

***You:*** Insight into circumstances that surrounded the first people of the Christian movement to better understand ourselves

***Rhythm:*** What does it mean to have a relationship with God?

***Open:*** Does God answer prayer? Why some, but not all?

***Sunday:*** Why do we attend church, tithe, or give our time?

***Luggage:*** Forgiveness isn't just about people who hurt us.

**Dust:** We believe in God, but does God believe in us?

**Bullhorn:** Loving God means loving everyone around us.

**Lump:** No matter what we've done, God always loves us.

**Matthew:** Losing someone we love can be the most difficult thing to go through in life.

**Rich:** Maybe God has blessed us with everything we have so we can bless and give to others.

**Breathe:** Throughout our everyday lives we don't pay much attention to the way we breathe, do we?

**Whirlwind:** When bad things happen to good people and we can't make any sense of it, where does that leave us?

**re-form, Sparkhouse, 2010.** It's a totally new approach to youth ministry that trusts youth to wrestle with the historic Christian faith and theology. It includes two DVD's with 40 hilarious animated short films (5-7 min. each) that frame theological questions that youth really ask, an anti-workbook that's full of individual and group activities, and a fully reproducible leader's guide. Use re-form in youth groups, confirmation classes, even 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school classes. 40 sessions. Because the workbook and leader's guide are so bulky, we can't send mail them out of the office.

**The Skit Guys: You Teach Vol. 5.** Youth Specialties, 2010. Seven short skits that are sure to encourage discussion. Topics include building relationships, materialism, false images in the church and much more. Study guide included on DVD. 23 minutes. Be sure to view each skit to see if it is appropriate for your group. Senior High.

### **Print Resources**

#### **Junior and Senior High**

**Keeping The Garden: A Faith Response to God's Creation, Generation Why Series** by Tim and Donita Wiebe-Neufeld. Faith and Life Press, 1990. Don't let the copy date keep you from using this resource. Through easy-to-use teaching material, creative activities, relevant discussion questions and reproducible sheets, teens will become aware that environment concerns are a religious issue. Youth will explore ways to connect faith with action. There are suggestions for camp or retreat use. Six sessions with an extra session from Genesis

**Mission: Christmas-Youth Programs and Ideas for Advent** by Bryan Brooks. Abingdon Press, 2005. In addition to five Sunday programs this resource contains 5 Advent and Christmas bible studies, a Christmas play, worship, service project ideas and a 5-page Bible dictionary for teens.

**Mission: Easter-Youth Programs and Ideas for Lent** by Todd Outcast. Abingdon Press, 2005. This resource will help youth ministry and church school leaders prepare lessons and activities that will teach youth to better understand and

observe this sacred time. Seven lessons include two dramas, three mini-programs and ideas for worship and retreat.

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***Single Digit Youth Groups: Working With Fewer Than 10 Teens*** by Marcey Balcomb. Abingdom Press, 2004. This is a solid resource with ideas that can be used in larger groups also. There's a good description of the why and how for small youth groups, a section on child protection policies, a number of helpful forms, and 42 activities. Some are topical and bible lessons and others service projects. All the activities list the number of youth needed to complete the activity, how much time the activity will take, the objective, materials needed, and prep work.

***Single Digit Youth Groups 2: More Activities Plus Mission Ideas*** by Marcey Balcomb. Abingdom Press, 2006. Again, this resource has activities that can be used in larger groups. There is a good section on leadership, and a fairly detailed account of planning and funding a mission trip. The 50 activities include Bible and topic work, but are more geared to service/mission projects. Helpful forms are included. All activities list the number of youth needed to complete the activity, how much time the activity will take, the objective, material needed, and prep work. Solid resource

### ***Junior High***

***Awesome God, Fast Lane Bible Study*** by Gareth Brandt. Faith and Life Press, 1998. Although dated this is a good five week study with easy-to-do activities that help Junior High students discover how God provides security, unconditional love, an attentive ear and the power to live God's way. This resource gives the leader lots of options to help youth explore, connect, and respond.

***Encountering Jesus, Fast Lane Bible Study*** by Frank Ramirez. Faith and Life Press, 2001. This five session interactive study will provide youth opportunity to connect their own issues with Jesus, the Christ. These are easy-to-do activities using varied learning styles, and the leader is given lots of options to help youth explore, connect, and respond.

***The Discover Series*** provides students grades 7 and 8 with "hands on" opportunities for youth to be nurtured in the faith and to learn about and to actively participate in their faith communities. Special to this series are the numerous

options that invite members of the congregation into the sessions to share various aspects of what it means to be a Christian in their faith community.

- ***Discover How to Grow Spiritually*** by Michelle Gritter. Discover what it means to be more like Jesus and grow in faith.
- ***Discover Your Church And Why You Need Each Other*** by Rachel Boehm Van Harmelen A hands-on exploration of what the church is and how it works. It includes planning a worship service.
- ***Discover Your Faith And Learn How to Live it*** by Norman D. Stolpe. Helps teens understand and practice what they believe about God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible, and the church. This is a great pre-profession of faith study.
- ***Discover Your Gifts And Learn How to Use Them*** by Ruth Vander Zee. Introduces the concept of spiritual gifts and helps teens identify working and waiting gifts. This is a popular study with youth.

***Junior High/Middle School Talksheets Updated*** by David Lynn. Youth Specialties, 2001. Each one-page reproducible handout comes with detailed information, suggestions for discussion, Bible references, internet resources, and activities on topics like media influence, substance abuse, peer pressure, parents, self-image, Jesus, friendships, prayer and worship, trusting God, dealing with doubt and 40 more topics.

***SafeKeeping: Session Plans for Developing Abuse Awareness In Kids*** by Henni Helleman and Patricia J. Vos. Faith Alive Christian Resources. 2006. An age-appropriate two-session abuse prevention curriculum for grades K-8.

We do not carry the yearly ***Walk With Me Curriculum*** from Faith Alive Christian Resources. Visit [www.WalkWithMeOnline.org](http://www.WalkWithMeOnline.org) to view curriculum samples for Grades 6-8. The three-year cycle: Year 1- church living, Year 2-doctrine, Year 3-the church and God's kingdom. We do carry the seasonal units listed below:

#### ***Walk With Me Advent/ Christmas Units***

Each of these units contains all you will need for two weekly sessions: large and small group studies for grades K-8, two dramas, songs, complete Advent and/or Christmas programs, crafts, games, a CD and all reproducibles.

Book 1: 2004 ***The Light of the World is Jesus.***

Book 2: 2005 ***Glory to the Giver and the Gift.***

Book 4: 2006 ***Just Like Me.***

#### ***Walk With Me Lent/Easter Units, Faith Alive Christian Resources***

Each of these units contains all you will need for two weekly sessions: large and small group studies for grades K-8, two dramas, songs, complete Palm Sunday and/or Easter programs, crafts, games, a CD and all reproducibles.

Book 1-2004 ***King Jesus***

Book 2-2005 ***The Lamb of God***

Book 3-2007 ***He's Alive!***

Book 4- 2007 ***Were You There?***

### **Senior High**

**32 Great Bible Studies for Youth** by Keith Stulp. CRC Publications, 1998.

Straightforward and easy-to-use, these one-page lessons can also be used in a retreat, and there are instructions for student led groups. Just photocopy and hand out. Topics include fear, stress, decisions, gossip, prayer, relationships, service, and faith. The group questions raise important real-life issues and help youth exchange ideas for solving problems based on day-to-day experiences.

**31 More Great Bible Studies for Youth** by Keith Stulp. CRC Publications, 2000.

The format is the same as the above resource. This resource focuses on the disciple James, the books of Psalms and Proverbs and the parables of Jesus.

**Fossils and Faith: Finding Our Way Through the Creation Controversy** by Thea Leunk. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2005. A thought-provoking course for teens that examines the various Christian beliefs about creation and the interesting questions that this topic provokes. Leader's guide and student newspaper

**High School Talksheets Updated: Psalms and Proverbs** by Rick Bundschuh and Tom Finley. Youth Specialties, 2001. Each one-page reproducible handout comes with detailed information and suggestions for discussion, Biblical references, internet resources, and activities on topics like trusting God's plan, sin, spirituality, fears, friendship, wisdom, parents, integrity facing challenges, and 40 more subjects of interest to teens.

**High School Talksheets: 50 Ready-To-Use Discussions on the Life of Christ** by Terry Linhart. Youth Specialties, 2005. This resource offers provocative questions that cover major events in Jesus' life and ministry. Students will delve into each aspect of Jesus' life while looking at it through the lens of their own world and applying it to their lives. Little prep needed, optional activities, reproducible handouts.

**Route 66: a road trip through the Bible** by Jane Vogel and Mary Sytsma. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2005. This resource gives an interactive "big picture" overview of the Bible's structure, content, and themes. Eight sessions, with two mentor sessions, leader and student guides.

**The Top 10 Questions about God And How to Respond to Them** by Troy Nanninga and Kirsty DePree, Reformed Church in America, 2009. This book provides biblical answers to questions like: Who is God and how can I know him? What is faith? What was the purpose of Jesus dying on the cross? What is a disciple? What is sin? What is salvation? It's appropriate to use in mentoring relationships, new-member classes, and small group settings. This resource is appealing to youth in its form and look, and is very "straight-forward". It relies on reflections and questions as responses to the ten questions, so limited in learning styles offered.

***What's Up with the Church Down the Street?*** by Thea Leunk. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2002. The perspective of this ten-session course is Reformed, and will certainly help teens articulate what their own tradition asks of them. It will also lead them to a broader understanding and appreciation of what each faith tradition contributes to the one church of Jesus Christ. Leader's guide and one participant set of "newspapers".

***The Youth Worker's Big Book Of Case Studies*** by Steve Case. These 180 real-life case studies will have your youth talking and thinking. Categories include family, school, sex/dating, friends, church, growing-up and more. Each study includes a very short case study, discussion questions, and scripture references. There is an easy-to-use index of contents, categories, and multiple topics-cross-referenced for leader needs. Solid resource

### ***Profession of Faith***

***The Top 10 Questions about God And How to Respond to Them*** by Troy Nanninga and Kirsty DePree, Reformed Church in America, 2009. This book provides biblical answers to questions like: Who is God and how can I know him? What is faith? What was the purpose of Jesus dying on the cross? What is a disciple? What is sin? What is salvation? It's appropriate to use in mentoring relationships, new-member classes, and small group settings. This resource is appealing to youth in its form and look, and is very "straight-forward". It relies on reflections and questions as responses to

***I Believe: Getting Ready To Profess My Faith*** by Jessie Schut. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2004. This is an eight session program aimed at youth in middle school but also suitable for high school youth. They work with a mentor or in study group, to grow in and express their faith. Topics include belief about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, the new life of service, the church and more. Youth will develop their own personal statement of belief and will be encouraged to develop the habits of reading the Bible and prayer. Mentor guide and student workbook

***Gifts of God: The Sacraments.*** Reformed Church Press. This study guide and DVD offer a great way to introduce and reflect on the sacraments of the Reformed Church. The DVD's two segments highlight the meaning and practice of baptism and Communion. The study guide presents the Reformed theology of the sacraments along with questions for reflection and discussion. It's ideal for new-member classes and adult study groups.

- Baptism: A sign of Promise (7:30)
- Communion: A Feast of Grace (5:30)

***HC and ME: The Heidelberg Catechism for Christian Living, Year One*** by Bob Rosema, Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2006. This resource, covering Q and A 1-58, provides an effective, easy-to-use classic approach to teaching the catechism to high school students. The emphasis throughout is on "doable" activities that are faithful to Scripture, the catechism, and the diverse ways high school

students learn. The resource continually invites students to reflect on and apply the catechism's teachings to their lives and to the world. Leader's guide and student workbook

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***Quest of Faith: Understanding What You Confess*** by Robert DeMoor. Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2000. Each page takes a Heidelberg question and helps teens and older adults answer basic questions about their Christian faith and our Reformed heritage.

#### **Drama/Skits**

***The Big Book Of Bible Skits: 104 Seriously Funny Bible Teaching Skits*** by Tom Boal. Look up skits by scripture passages, bible characters or topic. Good for Sunday school, youth groups, midweek and worship. Reproducibles. Ages 10 years to adult

***Worship Feast Drama: 15 Sketches for Youth Group, Worship and More*** by Beth Miller. This collection of short sketches and three full-length dramas can be used in worship, at youth gatherings, in Sunday school, in retreat, or in just about any setting in the church. Each sketch includes questions that can prompt discussion after the performance.

#### **Games**

***Everybody Wins! Cooperative Games and Activities*** by Sambhava and Josette Luvmour. New Society Publishers. These 150 cooperative games lean to younger children, although they certainly can work with almost any age group. Some are "age old" activities most of us have done, others are new. All games are referenced according to activity level, age group and group size. None are complicated and do not require many materials. Can be used in both outdoor and indoor settings

***Great Group Games: Boredom-Busting, Zero-Prep Team Builders For All Ages*** by Susan Ragsdale and Ann Saylor. Search Institute Press, 2007. Games are organized by growth stages and represent all learning styles. Great for intergenerational groups; includes tips for timing, supplies, group size and game safety, plus reflective questions

***Teambuilding With Teens: Activities for Leadership, Decision Making, and Group Success*** by Mariam G. MacGregor. Free Spirit Publishing, 2008. These 36 interactive

activities improve group and individual success and develop leadership, communication, and decision-making skills. Goals, group questions, reflection time and CD-ROM included. Give 20 -40 minutes for each activity. These work really well in adult groups also.

***Team Challenges: 170+ Group Activities*** by Kris Bordessa. Zephyr Press, 2006. These hands-on projects build cooperation, communication and creativity skills. Youth experiment with building methods, discover new uses for everyday items, and express themselves as they work toward a solution. Grades 5-adult.

***Quicksilver: Adventure Games, Initiative Problems, Trust Activities and a Guide to Effective leadership*** by Karl Rohnke and Steve Butler. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co, 1995. Although this resource includes project adventure activities that require supervision by trained and qualified leaders, there are other excellent indoor and outdoor activities that promote trust, communication, cooperation and are just plain fun. Includes great icebreakers that can be used in any adult setting also. Sr. High – adults

***104 Activities That Build: Self Esteem, Teamwork. Communication, Anger Management, Self-Discovery, Coping Skills*** by Alanna Jones. Rec Room Publishing Inc. 1998. These games can be used in many setting with minimal resources. Some are good icebreakers. Each game gives you the objective, group size, material needed, instructions and includes discussion questions. Grade 5- adults

#### ***Leadership Resources***

***Almost Christian: What The Faith Of Our Teenagers Is Telling The American Church*** by Kendra Creasy Dean. Oxford University Press, 2010. Based on findings from the National Study of Youth and Religion, this author argues that ardent faith in young people depends upon the churches' ability to recover a sense of mission, and model ways of being Christian that embodies God's self-giving love for others.

***Calling a Youth Pastor: A Guide for Churches and Candidates.*** CRC Publications, 2001. This booklet features a checklist for churches, suggested youth pastor qualifications, questions for the search committee to ask the candidate, and questions for the candidate to ask the search committee.

***The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry*** by Kendra Creasy Dean and Ron Foster. Although directed primarily at pastors this book encourages all youth leaders to become missionaries to youth, and the local congregation to view youth ministry as a mission. The book is as much about the soul tending of the pastor and youth leaders as it is about soul tending with youth. It's a book about developing a relational ministry, one build around faith practices with for and by youth. Each chapter ends with questions and one group exercise.

***Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in the Church for Children and Youth*** by Joy Thornburg Melton. Discipleship Resources, 2008. This expanded and updated edition combines two of Melton's previous books, plus has a section on vulnerable adults and information about safety on the web. It provides guidance for developing policies and procedures to help make congregations safe places. Sample forms, training models for workers, information about recruiting, screening and hiring church workers are included, plus much more.

***Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why most youth ministry doesn't last and what your church can do about it*** by Mark DeVries. IVP Books, 2008. DeVries pinpoints problems that cause division and burnout and provides practical tools and structure to lay a good foundation for a sustainable youth ministry.

***Teaming Up: Shared Leadership in Youth Ministry*** by Ginny Ward Holderness with Robert S Hay. Westminster John Knox Press, 1997. Although dated this is still a solid resource for developing a strong partnership of shared youth ministry leadership with adult and youth. It gives you the nuts and bolts of the why and how to build a shared leadership ministry. There are retreats and sessions to develop youth and adult leaders. It gives you a plan for creating a council that develops the entire year of programming, stressing relationships, spiritual growth, discipleship, and group building. There are lists of activities for youth ministry consideration in the areas of worship, topical focus discussions, ministry within the congregation, ministry in the community, and service projects.

***Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide to Staring Right*** by Doug Fields. Youth Ministries, 2002. Want to avoid burnout and encourage new youth workers? Fields adds the expertise of seasoned youth leaders to help new youth leaders navigate their first two years in ministry, nurture them spiritually, and give pointers on becoming a better youth worker. Chapters include topics like dealing with discouragement, building relationships with youth and their families, working with a team of leaders, dealing with conflict, evaluating your youth program, investing in student leaders and more-very readable with personal stories that speak to every reader. Personal reflection, group discussion and action suggestions for each chapter

***Youth Ministry 3.0: A Manifesto of Where We've Been, Where We Are, And Where We Need To Go*** by Mark Oestreicher, Youth Specialties, 2008. This book gives a brief history of youth ministry over the last 50 years and reviews three significant shifts in youth culture over the last several decades. It explores why we need to make changes in youth ministry and helps the reader dream about what needs to change in order to grow an effective youth ministry.

#### ***Teaching Aids***

***Beyond Leaf Raking: Learning to Serve/Serving To Learn*** by Peter L. Benson and Eugene C. Roehlkepartain. Abingdon Press, 1993. This resource was specifically

crated for youth ministry. The research is clear. Serving others is not only theologically appropriate for youth, but it gives them a more positive outlook on life. This resource presents the rationale for youth service and shows how to integrate service-learning into youth ministry. It includes practical checklists, worksheets, surveys, guidelines, evaluation tools and 135 project ideas.

***Christianity, Cults & Religions, Rose Publishing, 2000.*** This folded mini-chart compares 17 religions and cults with Biblical Christianity. It gives a clear summary of beliefs and compares questions like: Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? What happens after death? What about salvation?

***Praying in Color-Kid's Edition*** by Sybil MacBeth. Paraclete Press, 2009. This is the kid's edition and introduces young people to an active, visual and meditative prayer practice. It offers adults a new way to help children experience prayer. (The adult edition, would also work with teens.)

***Seasons of Celebration: Prayers, Plays, and Projects for the Church Year*** by Patricia Mathson. Ave Maria Press, 1995. Don't let the publishing date prevent you from using this excellent resource. Perhaps you want to hold an Advent or resurrection prayer service or an All Saints Day litany. Maybe a diamante poem, intention tree, or a new life wreath will help children and youth understand the meaning of Lent and Easter. This resource includes crafts, prayers, plays, pantomimes, banners, service projects and much, much more. Although generally selected for groups pre-school-middle school, some projects work great with all ages.

***Seasons of Faith: Teaching the Christian Year for Intergenerational Use*** by Marcia Joslin Stoner. Abingdon Press, 2003. This book contains information, crafts, and activities for Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter, Ascension Sunday and Pentecost. Includes a six-week Lenten study

### ***Worship***

***Blessing New Voices*** by Maren C. Tirabassi. United Church Press, 2000. This is a collection of prayers for all occasions by youth and worship services that include Good Friday, sunrise, sunset, loss of a friend, a national tragedy and more. Each worship service includes an activity related to the worship theme.

***The Book of Uncommon Prayer: Contemplative and Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry*** by Steven L. Case. Youth Specialties, 2002. This collection includes prayers, responsive readings, and worship services that can be used at retreats or at special times, like a national tragedy, lost of a friend, morning, sunset, Good Friday, Christmas, and communion. There are devotions for youth workers and a music CD.

***Worship Services for Youth Ministry*** by Steven L Case. Youth Specialties, 2002.  
This resource is totally relevant to youth and includes a Good Friday service and responsive readings and prayers for Easter.