

Fall 2014 Curriculum Overview for Young Adults and Adults

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
The Adult Journey	LeaderResources (Episcopal) http://leaderresources.org/adultjourney	Adapted from the J2A program for adults. “How does my story resonate with the Gospel story?” “How can I live the Gospel story in my life?”	25 one-hour or ten 2 ½ hour sessions. Structured around storytelling and six basic adulthood skills; <i>lectio divina</i> model for Bible study	Leader’s Guide includes lesson plans with background material and additional resource suggestions	Leader’s Guide and Participant’s Book	Adult	\$139.95 <i>Downloadable</i> UNDATED
Alpha (USA)	Nicky Gumbel (Independent) http://guest.alphausa.org	Explore the validity and relevance of the Christian faith to your life today.	Ten-week course in the basics of Christianity for people of all different backgrounds.	Handbooks and guides for organizing and running the program	3 hour session centered around a meal, video, presentation, and small group discussion	Adult (additional modules for youth, prisons)	\$1.29 Booklets \$19.99 Manuals Beginning Kits with DVDs \$499 UNDATED
Animate • Faith • Bible • Practices	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress www.wearesparkhouse/adults/	An accessible, captivating exploration of big questions of the Christian faith – designed to spark conversation in faith communities like yours.	7 DVD presentations of 7 sessions each with well known speakers (Brian McLaren, Laruen Winner, Shane Hipps, etc.)	Facilitator Guide offers complete information on each session and aids to leading vibrant discussion.	Classroom or home DVD presentations and participant journals	Adult	\$69.99 DVD \$14.99 Journal \$19.99 Facilitator Guide
Bible-in-Life	David C. Cook (Independent) www.davidccook.com/curriculum/davidccook/	Evangelical guidance to present basic Bible truths without being distracted by doctrines over which Bible-believing Christians may disagree. Having a personal relationship with Christ; a desire to witness, minister and serve	Scope & Sequence (small Anglican supplement “The Lamp Lighter” in center of teacher’s guide) 100% New Testament core lessons (NIV/KJV)	Teacher preparation for each lesson – questions (with answers) provided; “easy-to-teach & easy-to-prepare”	Relies on student booklets / visually oriented	Toddler/2 – Adult	Per quarter: \$7.49 Teacher \$16.50 Aids \$19.99 Resource Kit \$4.80 Student book DATED
Bible Workbench	The Educational Center (Episcopal) www.educationalcenter.org	Bible-centered resource designed to help participants understand the meaning of their own experience rather than simply offering facts and opinions from a teacher.	A lectionary Bible study that involves exploration of text, commentary, readings from literature, questions and journaling exercises.	Self-directed for individual or group use	“Workbook” style (ready for notebook), with experiential options, including art responses	Adult	By subscription: \$130 full year \$65 half year \$25 single issue DATED

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<i>Book of Faith</i>	Augsburg-Fortress (ELCA) www.bookoffaith.org	To increase biblical literacy and fluency for the sake of the world. A grass-roots approach embracing a common vision in which all are invited to open scripture and join the conversation.	4-fold method of Bible study: Devotional reading Historical reading Literary reading Lutheran Theological reading Books have 4-10 sessions each.	Online web support and resources Leader Guide	A variety of books for adult groups or individuals on books of the Bible and other biblical topics.	Adult	\$22.99 Leader Guide \$11.99 Learner Guide \$27.99 Course Kit
<i>Companions in Christ (Foundational course) Companerismo en Cristo</i>	Upper Room Ministries (United Methodist) http://companions.upperroom.org/adults	Exploring classic spiritual practices and inviting participants to develop daily patterns that open their lives to a deepening relationship with God & one another.	28-week foundational course (in 5-6 week segments) that includes daily reading and exercises.	Leader guides group process; offers worship ideas and leadership tools as well as support for each session.	Small group model (home or church) 2 hours weekly; experiential & reflective process	Adult	\$20 Leader's Guide \$20 Participant Book \$10 Participant Journal
<i>Companions in Christ: Exploring the Way</i>	Upper Room Ministries (United Methodist) www.companionsinchrist.org	A basic introduction to Christian spirituality with a taste of one key spiritual practice each week	6-week introduction to prayer practices (lectio divina, breath prayer, holy listening, daily examen, journaling)	Leader teaches, guides process	Class or small group model; 1 hour weekly	Adult	\$15 Leader's Guide \$8 Participant's Book
<i>Companions in Christ: additional series</i>	Upper Room Ministries (United Methodist) www.companionsinchrist.org	Additional series: The Way of Blessedness; Forgiveness; Prayer; Grace	6 – 9 week series on specific topics for those who have experienced the foundational course	Leader guides group process	Small group process	Adult	\$15 Leader's Guide \$15 Participant's Book
<i>Companions in Christ: The Way of Pilgrimage</i>	Upper Room Ministries (United Methodist) www.companionsinchrist.org	An adventure of spiritual formation for the next generation; pilgrimage is not about the destination, it's about the journey	30-week study broken into 5 six-week units: Choosing Pilgrimage, The Bible, Prayer, Companions, Stepping into the World	Leader's Guide provides structure and content for each weekly session	Weekly 1¼ hour group experience for Sunday School, youth group	High School and College-age	Per unit: \$20 Leader Guide \$12 Participant \$25 Videos
<i>Confirm not Conform Adult Versions: Episcopal Lutheran Presbyterian</i>	Forward Movement (Episcopal) www.confirmnotconform.com	Adults are often under as much, if not more, peer pressure as their kids. Explore how one's life and beliefs match up.	Adults explore their history with elements of their faith (prayer, sacraments, scripture) and consider how their lives and beliefs have been shaped by these experiences.	Leader's Guide, blog, website support	16 sessions	Adult	Based on ASA \$399 to \$699

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<i>Disciple</i>	Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com/disciple	To develop strong Christian leaders in local churches through the in-depth study of Scripture; to be strengthened in their faith and guided into service and ministry.	During the course of 34 weeks, groups will move through the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem (chronological) (NJB)	This study requires reading large portions of Scripture each week with careful study and preparation.	Video and manuals	Adult (also Youth edition)	\$299 Planning kit with DVD \$39 study manual \$10.99 Teacher Helps REUSABLE
<i>Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC)</i>	William Barnwell (Episcopal) www.trinitynola.com/docc	Challenges one to identify and practice daily skills in ministry as part of the process of Christian formation as a life-long process.	18-24 sessions; Learn the basics of faith, have an opportunity to deepen one's spiritual life, and enhance skills	Presenters (leaders) attend training where all materials are given	A presentation by leaders followed by small groups discussion and its application to their lives	Adult	Check out website for training fees REUSABLE
<i>The Discovery Series: A Christian Journey</i>	Episcopal Diocese of Texas (Episcopal) www.epicenter.org/edot/Discovery_Series.asp and www.forwardmovement.org	Designed to help every Christian – new or lifelong, young or old – discover their own path to a life in Christ	Five courses provide comprehensive training for Baptism, confirmation, spiritual gifts assessment, discipleship and worship	Facilitator's Guide and video. No particular training is needed for someone to facilitate the group except preparation for each class.	Each course has 2-4 video segments (about 15 min.), each intended to be followed by group work (about 45 min.)	Confirmation Adult	\$200 Guide + DVD The participant pages are also available online for purchasers. UNDATED
<i>Education for Ministry (EfM)</i>	University of the South, Sewanee (Episcopal) www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm	Every baptized person is called to ministry. EfM provides people with the education to carry out that ministry; discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.	Covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology.	Mentor training available and necessary to register a group of 6-12 students	Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars with comprehensive materials	Adult	Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program. \$350 per person, per year UNDATED
<i>Embracing series</i>	Morehouse Education Resources www.churchpublishing.org/embracing	Adults can engage with noted scholars and theologians on relevant topics of faith through their own small group.	Currently 8 (5-10 sessions) studies with Marcus Borg, Phyllis Tickle, Eboo Patel, Walter Brueggemann, Kathleen Norris, Barbara Crafton, Diana Butler Bass, Richard Rohr,	Adult participants share in leadership	Five 10-15 minute presentations by the speaker on DVD with guide for continuing group discussion	Young Adult Adult	\$39.95 DVD \$12.95 Guide UNDATED

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<i>Experience!</i>	Wood Lake Books www.woodlakebooks.com/curricula/experience_faith_formation_curriculum_for_adults/	When we call people together in small groups to participate in the experiential learning processes of this curriculum, we are in effect inviting them to come into the kind of learning community that Jesus gathered around him.	8-10small group sessions of adult theological re-education curriculum inspired by Marcus Borg. Three modules: Experiencing the Bible Again for the First Time; Experiencing Jesus, Experiencing Ecological Christianity	160 page leader's guide, 12 participant handbooks, posters, source book, DVD of video clips with Marcus Borg	Designed for group use is experiential in methodology, valuing the wisdom of each person and the integrity of their experience of the Sacred.	Adult	\$125-175 DVDs \$39.95 Participant Books
<i>Faith Lens</i>	Evangelical Lutheran Church of American (ELCA) http://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/	A weekly Bible study/discussion for youth & young adults, linking a current news story and scripture texts	Lectionary-based (NRSV)	Simple lesson plan with discussion questions, prayer and an activity	On-line, downloadable; posted every Wednesday	Middle School High School Young Adults	Free
<i>FaithLink</i>	Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com	A study for use by individuals or groups of mature youth and adults who want to apply their United Methodist beliefs to current faith issues and world events.	The weekly lesson examines current news items from the perspective of biblical faith and United Methodist teaching. (NRSV)	Weekly issue has background info and core Bible passages on the topic with suggested group activities and discussion.	On-line, downloadable	Older Youth, Young Adults, Adults	\$9.50 per issue download
<i>FaithWeaver</i>	Group Publishing (Independent) http://group.com/sunday-school/faithweaver	Concentrates on authentic learning education, and every activity has a purpose in encouraging faith growth for all ages.	Scope & Sequence quarterly with scripture and another key bible verse 25% OT 75% Gospel	Teacher Guides include background and dialogue script for speaking to class	Bible memory verses, drama, arts & crafts, stories – implies families study together at home	Toddlers – Adult	Quarterly: \$49.99 Teacher \$5.29 Student DATED
<i>Feasting on the Word</i>	Westminster John Knox Press (PCUSA) www.feastingontheword.net/curriculum	An ecumenical resource that combines four different approaches (exegetical, theological, pastoral, homiletical) to the lectionary readings.	Lectionary-based 63% Gospel 18% NT 18% OT	Lesson plans include teacher helps for connecting life with the biblical theme	Online, downloadable	Adult (available for all age levels)	\$160 for 12 months Downloadable DATED

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<i>The Greatest Story series</i>	Augsburg-Fortress http://store.augsburgfortress.org	Engage, surprise, and transform your congregation as they explore the Bible from beginning to end.	In each course, participants gain a foundational understanding of the key people, places, and events of the biblical narrative while building community and deepening faith.	Leader Guide has tips for storytelling and a script for each session. 16 sessions including a DVD featuring the sand art of Joe Castillo. Uses Lutheran Study Bible as core text.	Traditional adult setting	Young Adult Adult	Per course: \$14.99 Participant Guide \$24.99 Leader Guide \$19.99 DVD UNDATED
<i>Journey in Faith</i>	LeaderResources (Episcopal) http://leaderresources.org/journeyinfaith	Personal faith formation in a small group setting that transforms people and their congregations; baptismal ministry of the whole people of God.	Multi-year, multi-faceted program following “paths” (6 units each with 6 sessions each) OT, NT, Saints, History	Rotation of leadership roles; coached by mentors; training available	Weekly small group meetings	Adult	ASA: \$100-\$600 UNDATED
<i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Program (Independent / with ecumenical partnerships) www.kerygma.com	Seeks to support congregations in their reading and hearing “The Word” from back then to us here and now.	Courses on books of the Bible or themes (short and long term); numerous topics (OT, NT, Lent, Spirituality, Music, etc.)	Leader’s Guide is comprehensive for leading a course and also comes on CD for parish personalizing	Traditional adult setting; interactive	Adult	\$13.00-\$32.00 Resource Book \$15.00-\$35.00 Leader’s Guide UNDATED
<i>KLESIS Project</i>	Independent author (Episcopal) www.saintmarksburlington.org/adulted.php	Go from outsiders wondering how to connect with the church to people covenanting together to discern and act on their calling.	Three-fold: Connect? Community & Eucharist; Commit? Baptismal Covenant; Covenant! Exploration of gifts and call in community	Leader materials on-line and downloadable	Weekly gatherings of 2 hours including a meal (6-12 week modules)	Adult	Connect? FREE Downloadable Commit? Covenant!
<i>Lesson Plans that Work</i>	Episcopal Church (Episcopal) http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons	Lessons are a guide to centering Christian education in the church & home around the Biblical story	Lectionary Based, lessons usually follow Gospel NRSV	Simple plans with biblical background, list of questions and activity; blog	Usually one activity per lesson with supplemental suggestions	Younger & Older Elementary; Adult Intergenerational	FREE Downloadable DATED

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<i>LifeCycles</i>	LeaderResources (Episcopal) http://leaderresources.org/lifecycles	To empower all to realize their God-given gifts and so become ever more active, articulate apostles at work in God's world, and to transform "congregations gathered around the clergy" into vital, ministering communities	Scope & Sequence of four cycles with six units of six session each; Scripture / spiritual practices / theology / history / ethics	Leaders are encouragers and hosts, not instructors; community building; some preparation needed	Developed in small congregations with a mutual ministry model; for groups of 6-12 in a home-like setting	Adult	ASA: \$200- \$1,500 Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Living the Good News</i>	Morehouse Education Resources (Episcopal) www.livingthegoodnews.com	Brings people together to discover and share God's word through learning, worship & everyday life. RCL with resources for TEC, UMC, PCUSA, UCC and ELCA) and Catholic lectionary	Lectionary based 30% Old Testament 70% New Testament Free download extras by denomination (GNB & NRSV)	Teacher Guide with scriptural background; Clear lesson plan; take-home papers. Support site with denominationally specific enhancements.	Completely online with links to additional resources, inc. music, art, articles.	Nursery – Adult, including a multi-age component	Annual per level: \$129.99 Annual access all levels: \$649.99 Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Living the Questions 2</i>	Self published from several Methodist pastors www.livingthequestions.com	A program to help people wrestle with basic questions often avoided by the Christianity they grew up with for progressive Christians.	Comprised of 21 sessions, <i>LtQ2</i> may be offered in sequence or as 3 independent flights of 7 units each: Invitation to Journey, Reclaiming the World and Call to Covenant.	Downloadable leader/participant guides with weekly readings/discussion questions. 20-minute video segments.	Each session may be conducted in one hour or expanded to include a meal and personal sharing. DVD format.	Adult	\$299 REUSABLE
<i>NOOMA</i>	Flannel & Zondervan (Independent) www.NOOMA.com http://NOOMgroup.com	A series of short films that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.	24 short (5-10 minute) videos of everyday things and situations paired with Rob Bell's commentary about Jesus in the common. (many translations)	None – video with booklet that has pictures, scripture and questions. Films are provocative for conversation.	Produced as video or downstream (Flannel) or video and download (Zondervan). Booklets	Older Youth Young Adult Adult	\$39.99 download whole bundle UNDATED

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<i>Practically Christian</i>	OACES (Independent – Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/practicallychristian	A Guide to Practical Christian Prayer, Action, and Reflection. Combines practice in combining classical prayer forms with action on the Episcopal baptismal vows.	Links the Episcopal Church's five baptismal vows with six classical prayer forms of Adoration, Penitence, Praise, Intercession, Petition, and Thanksgiving	All inclusive in program materials with leader choice	36 session of 1 ½ hours each (sequential) On CD to print out on one's own	Adult	\$59.95 UNDATED
<i>Renovaré</i>	Renovaré (Non-denominational) www.renovare.us	Drawing from the example of Jesus Christ and the historical Church, Renovaré encourages people to develop renewed, sustainable, and enriched spiritual lives.	8-week to 52-week curriculums on a variety of spiritual formation/lifelong discipleship topics. Also feature a spiritual formation Bible.	Groups are leaderless (over time all participate in leading) with margin instructions included in each session.	Small group model (home or church) 90 minutes weekly; personal spiritual practices in-between sessions.	Adult	\$12-\$30, depending on the resource. UNDATED
<i>Seasons ENCORE (Seasons of the Spirit)</i>	Wood Lake Books, (Ecumenical) www.spiritseasons.com	Empower all ages to be transformed in Christ as they explore the Bible, worship, service and ministry	Lectionary & ecumenical using the Revised Common Lectionary (NRSV)	Complete lesson plans and extensive website support and chat-rooms	Multi-media, drama, music, stories, art, outreach & mission	All ages: Preschool - Adult	Quarterly: \$299 for all quarters DATED
<i>The Seekers</i>	OACES (Independent – Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/theseekers	To call young people into adulthood by discovery, wonder and reflection on life in light of our Christian tradition	2 years (25 sessions each) of programming focused around four units: Faith, Life, Self and Values	25 sessions per year; complete lesson plan outlines with facilitator background	Discussion and activities	Young Adults, ages 18-23.	\$79.95 Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Small Groups Discussion "On Being"</i>	Morehouse Education Resources www.churchpublishing.org/onbeing	A small group resource focusing on the realm of spiritual journey and faith dialogue.	Based on Krista Tippett's APM radio program, topically based on current issues paired with scripture and prayer.	8 units of 5 sessions each with full lesson plan / Leader's Guide	Web-based with MP3 files for listening, prayer, scripture	High School Young Adult Adult	\$39.95 per module Downloadable UNDATED

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<i>Synthesis CE</i>	Sedgewick Publishing Co. (Independent – Episcopal) www.synthesispub.com	A Lectionary study guide in the Episcopal tradition. Inspiring, weekly Bible lessons that follow the Lectionary, and are written by Episcopalians for Episcopalians, are a wonderful resource for your whole church.	Lectionary by subscription (52 sessions), references to Book of Common Prayer	2 page handout with scripture, interpretation and implications (reflection questions)	Small group study or individual use	Adult	\$145 print annual subscription (52 issues) with permission to duplicate for individuals (\$125 e-mailed) DATED
<i>The Thoughtful Christian</i>	Westminster John Knox Press (Presbyterian) www.thoughtfulchristian.com	Bible study should be timely. It should stimulate our thoughts about Christian values and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life.	Web-based resource center comprised of various studies in units of 1-4 sessions on timely topics as well as denominational subjects from a variety of traditions	Each session is designed for 45-60 minutes with a 3-4-page Participant Handout and a 2-5 page Leader's Guide with lesson plans & resources.	Individual or group study	Youth Young Adult Adult	Downloadable as PDF files that can be duplicated Range from \$5 - \$18 per unit; discounts for subscribers
<i>Transforming Literature of the Bible (TLB)</i>	William Barnwell (Episcopal) www.trinitynola.com/tlb	“Plow deep into the meaning of the great literature of the Bible by listening to God speak through the stories that have shaped our culture and our church.”	2 semesters: 17 sessions explore Hebrew Scripture; 19 Christian Testament Materials include full commentary for each session (NRSV)	Seminar leaders receive 9 hours of training Participants spend 2-4 hours of study in preparation for each session	Seminars of 12 or fewer people	Adult	\$150 per person includes all materials UNDATED
<i>Venture</i>	OACES (Independent – Episcopal) http://leaderresources.org/Venture-B	Exploring the Great Ideas and Images of the Christian Faith. Group study in four subjects: Church History, Liturgics, Holy Scripture and Theology	4 Series of 6 sessions: Christian beginnings; Reformation; Prophetic Voices of Freedom; One God, Many Faiths / uses other texts for reading	Facilitator's Guide with meeting outlines and discussion questions	Sunday Forum or Adult class	Adult	\$29.95 per study Facilitator's & Study Guides Downloadable UNDATED

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<i>via media</i> <i>(also: via media: values and expanded version)</i>	Every Voice Network (Episcopal) www.everyvoice.net/	“A place to ask 21st Century questions” To proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Jesus and to present The Episcopal Church in a contemporary context through video-enhanced curricula	8, 16 or 24 week “journeys of study, prayer and action” encountering the basic principles of Christianity through the Anglican approach of Scripture, traditions and reason.	Training available through Every Voice Network for implementation and leader training, although not necessary	Small group conversation around a video segment that models theological reflection, inc. worship – all on CD	Adult	\$495.00 basic \$695.00 expanded \$350.00 values \$139.95 Eat, Pray, Grow UNDATED
<i>The Best of Whole People of God Online</i>	Wood Lake Publishing (Independent) www.wholepeopleofgod.com	A simple, easy-to-use curriculum for your entire Christian Education family.	Lectionary based	Downloadable plans and Weekly Tip Newsletter	Materials for classrooms, worship, home	All ages	\$123 and up Annual subscription (Sept-August) on ASA
<i>The Wired Word</i>	www.thewiredword.com	Effectively apply the Bible in your Sunday School class or small group to stories ripped from the headlines.	Discusses a current event to be analyzed in a biblical context each week, offering a Big Question to provide a framework for the discussion.	Every Thursday, you receive an e-mail alert that the current lesson is ready with a link to the material on the website.	Teacher’s guide and student handouts are downloadable.	Adults	\$79.95

BOOK STUDIES: Many congregations offer book groups for reading and discussion. You can find a listing and description of many books for small groups on devotional topics, leadership, ministry, episcopal studies, and for adult formation at www.churchpublishing.org/studyguides

NOTES:

- Coloring coding: Green – Youth; Purple – Young Adult; Orange – All ages
- ASA = Average Sunday Attendance
- When visiting the Cokesbury website to search for curriculum, go to www.cokesbury.com/curriculum.aspx or www.ileadyouth.com
- Bible Translations:
 - NRSV – New Revised Standard Version
 - CEV – Contemporary English Version
 - TEV – Today’s English Version
 - NKJV / KJV – New King James Version / King James Version
 - NLT – New Living Translation (paraphrased)
 - NIV – New International Version

For updated overviews of curricula for children, youth & adults and more in-depth reviews, visit Building Faith www.buildfaith.org/resource-room/ For more information or questions regarding this chart contact Sharon Ely Pearson spearson@cpg.org
Sharon Ely Pearson.