

Fall 2014 Curriculum Overview for Youth Formation

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
Amazing Bible Race	Abingdon (United Methodist) www.amazingbibrace.com	Take your youth on a scavenger hunt through the Bible and read it in its entirety over six 12-week legs.	A 6-volume scavenger hunt through the Bible for youth groups. The race has six legs through different sections of the Bible as youth live into the sacred stories.	Administration tools help youth workers manage the race, coordinate weekly challenge turn-in, send e-mail reminders, and tally points.	Each leg includes a daily reader for every runner and a CD-Rom leader's guide with everything a "race director" needs, including website registration.	Youth	Per leg: \$21.44-32.99
Ancient Faith Series	Beacon Hill Press (Nazarene) www.cokesbury.com http://www.nph.com/nphweb/html/bhol/series.jsp?series=Ancient%20Faith%20Series&nid=itemStrong	Ancient Christian practices might not be well known or commonly practiced in your local church but can be a source for youth.	A series of books to explore Christian practices that call students to slow down, read Scripture, meditate on it, and prayerfully respond as they listen to God through His Word.	All use same books on topics such as: Imagio Dei Examen Spiritual Pilgrimage Prayer Beads Lectio Divina	Youth books	High School Ages 15-18	\$10.99 per book
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: \$770 Teacher \$16.50 Aids \$4.25 Take home \$4.15 Student leaflets DATED
BL4Y (Bible Lessons for Youth)	Abingdon (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com http://www.abingdonpress.com/product/9781426798245#.VCg6DV7o3E	Help youth discover that the Bible has meaning for life today! Bible-based lessons help youth claim the Scriptures as their own.	Following the International Lesson Series, youth examine the entire Bible over a six-year period.	The Leader Book has a facsimile of each page from the Youth Book, Bible commentary from biblical scholars, and in-depth lesson plans	The Youth Book has the actual Scripture reading, reflections on how the Scripture relates to their life, and activities to engage their interest	Grades 7 – 12 with adaptable levels for Jr. High and Sr. High teens	Per quarter: \$9.49 Leader \$7.29 Youth DATED

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BURST <i>(Topics of Today's Teen)</i>	CRC (Reformed) www.abingdonpress.com	Topics for today's teen produced inexpensively but relevant	Short-term youth group programming on provocative subjects. Each short-term study includes 4-6 weeks worth of material and is ideal for Sunday school or youth group.	Leader's Guide	Traditional setting or evening youth group. Current topics: World Religions and Green Church	Youth	\$10.99 Leader's Guide \$8.49 Student Booklets (5 per pack)
Claim the Life	Abingdon Press (Methodist) www.ClaimtheLife.com	God is already at work in the lives of your youth. Claim the Life brings together the hopes you have for your youth: spiritual formation, discipleship, Christian community, and faith knowledge that follows them from confirmation to graduation.	6-year comprehensive youth curriculum for (MS: Journey/Word/Faith & HS: Promise/Story/Call; Each year's theme has 2 semesters of 16 weeks each; based on key words or phrases	CD-ROM, web, e-mail and DVDs with 2 teaching options: activity based or discussion based (using videos or questions)	Traditional classroom or youth group involves video vignettes, interactive website and print materials	Grades 7-9 Grades 10-12	Per semester: \$19.99 Leader \$7.99 Student \$30 Teaching tools \$22 Videos UNDATED
Companions in Christ: The Way of Pilgrimage	Upper Room Ministries (Methodist) http://companions.upperroom.org/youth	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 \$8 Participant \$25 Videos
Connect	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/connect/	Tweens revisit the Bible's greatest stories, uncover major biblical themes, and discover how the Bible relates to their own lives. It's Bible-centered Sunday school with just enough quirky tween humor to get them hooked.	2 year Scope & Sequence of 5 units (30 lessons each) Year 1: OT (100%) Year 2: NT (60% Gospel, 40% Acts, Letters, etc. of NT) NRSV	Leader Guide is 4-page easy lesson plan. Dependent on DVD for "warm up" video, Connect Bible, and Learner Sheets (project papers). Often involves food and candy.	Traditional classroom, 60+ minute session	Tweens (Grades 5-6)	Per Unit: \$19.99 DVD \$9.99 Leader \$4.49 Learner (per student) Connect Bibles: \$24.99 Hardcover \$19.99 Paperback

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<i>CONNECT: Life & Christian Faith for Young Teens</i>	Abingdon Press (United Methodist Church) www.cokesbury.com	Keep youth involved in the life of the church, be a positive influence in the lives of youth and help them grow in faith.	Units are centered on topics of importance to youth and relates them to OT & NT Scripture	Full lesson plan includes teacher background and preparation	Traditional classroom; variety of activities	Grades 6-8 (Ages 12-15)	\$4 per unit Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Echo the Story (12 or 36)</i>	Sparkhouse/Augsburg Fortress (Michael Novelli) http://wearesparkhouse.org/teens/echothestory/	Students see the Bible and God in new and different ways through the storying process.	A 12-session overview from creation to the church and a 36-session journey through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation	Six part sequence led by a leader: 1. Rewind 2. Prepare 3. Imagine 4. Capture 5. Remix 6. Connect	To connect with different learning styles, each student chooses between the drawing and creative writing activities provided in the Sketch Journal.	Youth	Per 6 lessons \$14.99 Leader Guide \$22.99 DVD \$6.99 Student Sketch Guide
<i>encounter: Meeting God Face-to-Face</i>	Standard (Independent) www.encounterface2face.com	“A Bible-based, culturally relevant, easy-to-teach, personally challenging, age-appropriate curriculum can lead teens to meet God face-to-face!”	Many pieces of scripture tied to contemporary issues. “Designed to help teens meet with God, not be indoctrinated with dogma about God.”	Teacher choice of activities. Online group support and additional resources for tapping into current events	For small group ministry. Books, video, audio and on-line resources	Young Teens (Ages 12-14) High School (Ages 15-18)	Quarterly: \$28.99 Teacher Kit \$7.99 Teacher Guide \$16.49 Resource \$4.25 Student \$19.49 Magazine
<i>Faith in Motion</i>	CRC (Reformed) www.ileadyouth.com/resources	Help young people realize they can have an active faith by discussing thorny dilemmas and serious questions with helps to find solutions in the Bible	16 relevant teen themes/volumes with 7 lessons under each topic	Leader’s Guide has background information; lesson plan; ideas for outside the classroom	Colorful student journals and current topics of interest to teens	Grades 6-9 (12-15 years)	Per theme: \$24.99 Leader’s Guide \$6.25 Student Journal UNDATED
<i>Faith Lens</i>	Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) http://blogs.elca.org/faithlens/	A weekly Bible study/discussion for youth & young adults, linking a current news story and scripture texts	Lectionary-based (NRSV)	Simple lesson plan with discussion questions, prayer and an activity	On-line, downloadable; posted every Wednesday	Middle School, High School, Young Adults	Free

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<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)	Each weekly issue (6 pages) contains 4 copy-ready pages of background information and core Bible passages on the topic and 2 pages of suggested group activities and discussion questions.	On-line, downloadable	Older Youth, Young Adults, Adults	\$9.50 per issue/download
<i>FaithWeaver NOW</i>	Group Publishing (independent) http://group.com/sunday-school/faithweaver-now	Concentrates on authentic learning education, and every activity has a purpose in encouraging faith growth for all ages.	Scope & Sequence quarterly with scripture and another key bible verse 25% OT 75% Gospel	Teacher Guides include background and dialogue script for speaking to class	Bible memory verses, drama, arts & crafts, stories – implies families study together at home	Toddlers – Adult	Quarterly: \$49.99 Teach Pack \$9.99 CD \$5.99 Student DATED
<i>Feasting on the Word</i>	Westminster John Knox Press (PCUSA) www.feastingontheword.net/curriculum	Ecumenical resources that incorporates the uniqueness of commentaries providing for different approaches to each of the biblical passages of the lectionary readings.	Lectionary based. 63% Gospel 18% NT 18% OT	Comprehensive, accessible biblical background from four perspectives: exegetical, theological, pastoral and homiletical	Downloadable or print and ship option; packet of posters mailed separately	Grades (K) 1-2 Grades 3-4 Tweens (Gr. 5-6) Youth Young Adult Adult	Total church plan: \$700/\$900 Per age level: \$145/\$180 Downloadable / or print & ship \$60 color pack DATED
<i>Generation Why</i>	Brethren Press (Mennonite) https://shinecurriculum.com/generationwhy/	All-in-one curriculum guides youth and their leaders on a journey for meaning and identity. In a time of violence, injustice, materialism, and hard questions, GW offers a different point of view.	Modules of 6 sessions, plus extender session	Unknown	Classroom	Youth	Per module: \$18.99 Print \$23.99 CD (pdf)
<i>God Talks</i>	LeaderResources by Heidi Hawkes (Episcopal) http://leaderresources.org/God-talks	To learn that one has a life purpose, to seek connection with inner self, to seek connection with God and the world around, to experience transcendence.	Topic-based program examines a single theme or concept (one per 2-5 weeks) with the goal of addressing the characteristics of spiritual development.	Downloadable lesson plans accessible through subscription membership	Classroom, downloadable lessons 20 topics	Designed for younger youth but all ages of youth may find it applicable	\$99-279 subscription membership Downloadable UNDATED

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Grapple	Group Publishing (independent) www.group.com/grapple	Answers tough preteen questions – and helps kids discover the power of a growing faith in Jesus	12 attention-grabbing lessons and Bible studies with access to create your group's own online community (90% NT)	Basic booklet with lesson plans and DVD of video clips; on-line support	DVD and on-line with class discussion	4th-6th grade (preteen) and Junior High modules	Quarterly: \$94.99 - \$144.99 per class size
Grow * Proclaim * Serve! (On the Go!)	Cokesbury www.growproclaimserv.com	Nourish and enrich children, from birth through tweens, in faith so they can proclaim the good news of God's love and serve God and neighbor. Children will realize their faith goes with them as they grow.	3 year Scope & Sequence Quarterly (4 seasons) 50% OT 50% NT "Comprehensive 3-year journey though the Bible"	Leader tools online in addition to Leader's Guide of traditional lesson plan	Lesson plans heavily dependent on additional resources of the curriculum	Tweens (<i>On the Go for Tweens</i> is a 1 year Bible study)	Quarterly: \$9.99 Leader \$5.99 Magazine "On the Go" Downloadable or print option \$39.99 Annual Kit
Image Series	Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://store.augsburgfortress.org	Designed to help participants look at who God created them to be and understand God's presence in their lives as they are challenged by a variety of issues in our world today.	3 topics in the series vary from 4-6 sessions each: Teenage Depression; Love; Friendships	Leader Guide with activities: role playing, discussion questions, surveys, journal reflections, music and media	Weekly journaling time, contemporary music, suggested movie scenes	Middle / Junior High	\$12.00 per topic – downloadable
Journey to Adulthood	LeaderResources (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/j2a	Manhood & Womanhood are gifts from God. Adulthood must be earned. Rites of Passage are important; Pilgrimage is to seek God	Three 2 year components; each focuses on all aspects of a person: self, society, sexuality and spirituality	Huge amount of materials with lesson plans, liturgies, more; training recommended	Traditional classroom setting and youth group modules combined	Rite-13 (6-8th grade) J2A (9th-10th) YAC (11th-12th)	\$149-\$349 per year ASA downloadable UNDATED
Lesson Plans that Work	Episcopal Church (Episcopal) http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/	Lessons are a guide to centering Christian education in the church & home around the Biblical story	Lectionary Based, can choose OT or Gospel lesson NRSV	Simple plans with biblical background, list of questions and activity; blog	Usually one activity per lesson with supplemental suggestions	Younger & Older Elementary; Adult Intergenerational	FREE Downloadable DATED

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LinC <i>(Living in Christ)</i>	Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.ileadyouth.com	To develop Christian identity and live the Christian faith in contemporary culture, by challenging youth to think about their faith and beliefs.	Two full programs and a devotion on a timely issue – weekly. With the immediacy of online technology, relevant information about current issues that have immediate impact on youth.	Background and scripture related to the issue, book and movie reviews	Group setting for discussion	Older Youth and Young Adult (can be adapted depending on topic for younger youth)	\$9.00 per week or download DATED / past issues available for download / purchase
Living the Good News Online	Morehouse Education Resources (Episcopal) www.livingthegoodnews.com	Brings people together to discover and share God's word through learning, worship & everyday life. RCL (with support site for TEC, UMC, PCUSA, UCC and ELCA churches) and Catholic lectionary	Lectionary based 30% Old Testament 70% New Testament (GNB & NRSV)	Teacher Guide with scriptural background; Clear lesson plan; Support site with additional ideas and handouts	Completely online with links to additional resources inc. music, art, articles. Take home papers can be emailed home.	(All ages) Young Teen (Grade 7-9) High School (Grade 10-12)	Annual per level: \$129.99 Annual access for all levels: \$649.99 Downloadable UNDATED
Making it Real & Relevant	LeaderResources (Episcopal) By Heidi Hawks http://leaderresources.org/making-it-real-and-relevant-mrr	A multi-media, typically based Bible study so youth can explore God, Jesus, the Bible, their faith and values in ways that show them how real and relevant these topics are in their lives.	Available in an RCL lectionary format (Gospel) that examines community and world issues using video clips & current music.	Teacher lesson plans with lists of video & music used	Semester: 16 Fall & 17 Spring sessions; use of video & music; art experiences	Middle & High School	\$99 – 279 based on AWA Downloadable
Mustard Seed Series	LeaderResources by Anita Keire - UCC) www.leaderresources.org/mustardseed	Opens the minds & spirits of students & teachers to the richness, variety and purpose of God's word and action among us.	Chronologically centered on the Bible; 340 texts covered in 10 years	Complete lesson plans with no training needed; supplemental books by author	Student books, teacher directed with answers given	K – Grade 9 (Confirmation)	\$99 – 399 based on AWA Downloadable \$13.95 Student \$37.95 Teacher per grade REUSABLE
NOOMA	Flannel & Zondervan (Independent) www.NOOMA.com	A series of short films that explore our world from the perspective of Jesus. NOOMA is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion.	24 short (5-10 minute) videos of everyday things and situations paired with Rob Bell's commentary about Jesus in the common. (many translations)	None – video with booklet that has pictures, scripture and questions. Films are provocative for conversation.	Produced as video or downstream (Flannel) or video and download (Zondervan). Booklets	Older Youth Young Adults Adults	\$44.99 download bundle UNDATED

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<i>Questions Seniors Ask</i>	Cokesbury (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com	Offering a balance of short, lively units on Bible, faith and life for older teens, units developed from questions and issues from a teen survey	Questions about the topic focused on key scriptures (OT & NT) Units (50+) on Death, Lent, The Opposite Sex, Eternal Life and more.	Session materials downloadable	2 sessions per topic	Grades 9-12 (ages 15-18)	Each session \$4.00 Downloadable UNDATED
<i>re:form</i>	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://reform.wearesparkhouse.org	Youth encounter a question from the historic Christian faith through creative, provocative humor, illustrations and animation. (Created as a Confirmation resource, but has other potential)	Each question is presented in simple terms to encourage exploration and discovery. The DVD Set has 40 session videos. Each video is between 5-7 minutes in length.	Leader Guide has a theological background on the question presented and includes direction for the individual and group activities included in the Anti-Workbook.	DVD video is central with Anti-Workbook for student exploration	Grade 5 & 6 Middle School Confirmation	\$59.99 DVD Set \$39.99 Leader Guide \$19.99-\$16.99 Anti-Workbook (1 per student)
<i>re:form Ancestors</i> <i>re:form Traditions</i>	Sparkhouse / Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) http://reform.wearesparkhouse.org	Explores the ancestors of our faith by exposing the real, unpolished, and unexpected personalities of the bible. Discover the similarities between themselves and the many unlikely people selected by God to do extraordinary things.	Ancestors: 15 OT characters 15 NT characters Traditions: Lutheran Methodist Reformed	Leader Guide has a theological background on the question presented and includes direction for the individual and group activities included in the Anti-Workbook.	DVD video is central with Anti-Workbook for student exploration	Designed for High School due to the issues discussed	\$24.99 Leader \$29.99 DVD \$8.99 Anti-Workbook Each – The OT & NT Ancestors are sold separately
<i>Seasons Encore</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 Youth: 12-14 & 15-18	\$132.60 per level all year (web) Quarterly: \$57 web \$69.60 print DATED
<i>Synago</i>	Abingdon Press (United Methodist) www.cokesbury.com	To strengthen members' spiritual relationship with God and Jesus Christ in order to build Christian community within a circle of friends.	Each (16) study provides 16 sessions. Topics: images of God, body image, eternal life, making wise choices, claiming your faith, finding God in silence, etc.	Student Leader Guide includes the necessary information for setting up and maintaining healthy cell groups.	Small group / cell groups	Senior High (15-18)	\$6.35 Student Leader \$3.50 Student Journal

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<i>Teen Text</i>	The Educational Center (Episcopal) https://www.educationalcenter.org/resources/resources-youth	Helps youth connect the text on the page with events in their daily lives through discussions guided by a series of open-ended, text-related questions	Lectionary CEV & NRSV	Discussion guide provides information to facilitate the session; ability to be open and a good listener	Traditional classroom setting	Two levels: Grades 6-8 and Grades 9-12	Annually: \$75.00 DATED
<i>The Sunday Paper</i>	The Sunday Paper (Independent / Episcopal – written by Gretchen Wolff-Pritchard) www.the-sunday-paper.com/	"The Sunday Paper is informal, whimsical, faithful to Scripture, and in dead earnest. It is not condescending or cute. It helps children to acquire a vocabulary of crucial Scriptural images, and to relate the Gospel to the OT, life of the Church, & their own lives."	Lectionary-based; Gospel focused with OT & Psalm; Line drawings in cartoon fashion with activity page and commentary	None	Church (worship bulletin), home, nursery, or classroom	Intermediate – Grade 8	Annually: \$105 print \$76 download DATED
<i>The Thoughtful Christian</i>	Westminster John Knox Press (Presbyterian) www.thoughtfulchristian.com	Bible study should be timely. It should stimulate our thoughts about Christian values and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life.	Web-based resource center comprised of various studies in units of 1-4 sessions on timely topics as well as denominational subjects from a variety of traditions	Each session is designed for 45-60 minutes with a 3-4-page Participant Handout and a 2-5 page Leader's Guide with lesson plans & resources.	Individual or group study	Youth Young Adult Adult	Downloadable as PDF files that can be duplicated Range from \$5 - \$18 per unit; discounts for subscribers
<i>Walk With Me</i>	Faith Alive Resources (Reformed) www.WalkWithMeOnline.org	We aim to be faithful to Scripture and to make the Reformed faith come alive in our everyday experiences as children of God.	Three-year for grades 6-8 (Explore, Believe, Discover)	Complete lesson plan for 45 minutes with website assistance	Memory activities, worship, activity, song	Closely graded for K/4 – Grade 8	Per quarter: \$24.99 Teacher \$117.99 Resource \$9.49 Student \$14.49 CD DATED

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Weaving God's Promises for Youth	Morehouse Education Resources www.weavinggodspromises.org/Program/Youth/	To teach our youth the way of Christ, not only in the church but in the world; to help them make connections between the lessons and their own lives; to prepare them for Christian adulthood.	Year 1: <i>Weaving Our Faith</i> theme is God loves us and stays with us (no matter what) to bring us back to God. Year Two: <i>Weaving Together the Family of God</i> / Year Three: Weaving God's Beloved Community	Full teacher lesson plans, background material and appendix to assist a teacher in planning and knowing middle school students.	A variety of age-appropriate activities using all modes of learning. Based on scripture, Episcopal traditions & worship, Christian living	Middle School Grades 6-8	\$99-369 ASA pay and download Year 1: 40 lessons Year 2: 45 lessons Year 3: 48 lessons
We Believe: Faith Questions	Congregational Ministries Publishing (Presbyterian) www.pcusa.org/webelieve/	Created specifically for Presbyterians, focuses on Reformed heritage. In different ways, each age level includes content from Reformed creeds, confessions, catechisms and statements of faith.	Track for youth are in 4-6 session mini-courses exploring questions particular to the Bible, creeds and confessions of PCUSA	Leader Guides with specific plans; online training, downloads and newsletter		High School youth	\$15.95 Teacher \$72.95 Kit
The Best of Whole People of God Online	Wood Lake Publishing www.wholepeopleofgod.com	A simple, easy-to-use curriculum for your entire Christian Education family.	Lectionary based	Downloadable plans and Weekly Tip Newsletter	Materials for classrooms, worship, home	All ages	\$99 – 1,300 Annual subscription (Sept-August) on church size
Witness	Augsburg Fortress (ELCA) www.augsburgfortress.org/learning/sunday-school/witness	To give students a solid foundation of Biblical knowledge with the practical ways to share their faith in daily life: to know the Word, grow in faith, show service	Two-year undated quarterly using scripture metaphorically Old Testament 33% New Testament 67%	Material prep and detailed printed dialogue for teachers to have with students	Variety of activities are simple with a hands-on approach	Closely graded – ages 2-8th grade	Semester: \$8.99 Teacher \$19.99 Class Kit \$7.99 Learner UNDATED

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NOTES:

- Coloring coding: Yellow – Children/Middle School; Blue – Tweens; Green – Youth; Orange – All ages – many including young adult and adult
- ASA = Average Sunday Attendance / AWA = Average Worship Attendance
- When visiting the Cokesbury website to search for curriculum, go to <http://www.cokesbury.com/forms/curriculum.aspx?lvl=Youth> or www.ileadyouth.com
- Bible Translations:
 - NRSV – New Revised Standard Version
 - CEB – Common English Bible
 - 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
 - GNB – Good News Bible

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