

Children's Sunday School Curriculum Review

A quick comparison of 11 curricula from
major publishers!

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This document is summary of the information gathered by reading and reviewing portions of each curriculum. For further information, feel free to call Harrison. This project is a service to churches.

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Curriculum	GC2	Bible Studies for Life	Explore the Bible	Gospel Project	First Look & Kids	Shine
Publisher	Baptist General Convention of Texas	LifeWay (Southern Baptist Convention)	LifeWay (Southern Baptist Convention)	LifeWay (Southern Baptist Convention)	Orange	Brethren Press and Mennomedia
Website	Gc2press.org	Lifeway.com	Lifeway.com	Lifeway.com	Thinkorange.com	Shinecurriculum.com
Age	Birth-6 th grade	Birth-6 th grade	Birth-6 th grade	Birth-6 th grade	Birth-6 th grade	Pre-K-6 th grade
Scope	3-4 years	4 years	6 years	3 Years	3 years	3 years
Price*	Free	\$47.89	\$54/ \$42 (preschool)	\$53.38/ 45.38 (preschool)	\$52.50	\$62.36
Video/Leaflet/Bible**	No/No/No	No/Yes/No	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/Yes/No	No/Yes/No	No/Yes/Yes
Summary (In 280 characters or less)	Innovative activities using typical church and household items to teach biblical literacy and collaboration. Lessons center play and creativity as the methodology for imparting knowledge of biblical stories and timeless truths.	Multi-year study using Bibles stories to point to Biblical concepts that age with the participants. These concepts correspond to the "Levels of Biblical Learning" and cover an array of topics with faith development.	A deep dive into the world of the Bible. Over the course of five years, participants engage with the Bible as a text, as well as the world of the Bible, and learn how these stories apply to their faith and life.	A three-year journey into the story of Scripture. Participants spend equal time in the Old and New Testament and invest in the overarching story of the Bible. Everything about this curriculum points to this story and work of Salvation found within it.	A high-energy presentation of the foundation of the Christian faith. The excitement of large events is brought to each week as participants are drawn into the learning experience and engage with who God is.	Simple lessons that engage Scripture and spirituality to bring participants to a place of wonder. These lessons are not made to impart information but to encourage questions and discovery of the faith passed down

Curriculum Publisher	Spark SparkHouse (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)	Whirl SparkHouse (ELCA)	Frolic SparkHouse (ELCA)	Holy Moly SparkHouse (ELCA)	Connect SparkHouse (ELCA)
Website	Wearsparkhouse.org	Wearsparkhouse.org	Wearsparkhouse.org	Wearsparkhouse.org	Wearsparkhouse.org
Age	Age 2-6 th grade	Pre-K-6 th grade	Birth-Age 5	K-4 th grade	5 th -6 th grades
Scope	3 yrs (Lectionary)/2 yrs (All Kids and Classroom)/ 5 ½ yrs (Rotation)	3 yrs (Lectionary)/2 yrs (Classroom and All Kids)	2 years	2 years (excluding Summer)	2 years (60 lessons)
Price*	\$45.95 (All Kids)/53.08 (Rotation)/33.95 (Lectionary and Classroom)	\$59.14 (All Kids)/47.95 (Lectionary or Classroom)	\$44.99 (one time for nursery)/ \$26.57 (preschool)	\$43.95	\$52.44
Video/Leaflet/Bible**	No/Yes/Yes	Yes/Yes/Yes	No/No/No	Yes/Yes/No	Yes/Yes/No
Summary (In 280 characters or less)	One curriculum with four structures that makes it easy for churches to adapt it to their needs. The lessons follow a rhythm through the lessons and involve creative activities to engage with the weekly Bible passages and connect to the Christian calendar.	Participants engage with fun characters in the weekly videos who interact with the lessons in a church setting. The characters digest the stories shared each week and work together to put it into practice, inviting the participants to do the same.	A simple look at the foundations of faith for the littlest members of the congregation. Lessons and ideas for nursery and preschool families to begin the understanding of the love of God and beauty of creation.	A singularly focused literary look at Scripture. The lessons, activities, and videos all focus on the characters and movement of the Bible story. The age range is smaller (K-4 th grade) but the curriculum is seamless and cohesive in its design and methodology.	A two-year curriculum forming a bridge from elementary to youth experiences. Participants engage with Bible concepts in succinct units and see how the themes of Scripture are found throughout the texts and connect with life today.

*Price is calculated as cost per student per year with 10 students and 2 teachers

**This row indicates whether curriculum has a video, student leaflet/activity sheet, and curriculum-specific Bible.

Curriculum	Wonderlink	Illustrated Compassion	Godly Play
Publisher	David C. Cook	Illustrated Ministry	Godly Play
Website	Wonderlink.org	Illustratedministry.com	Godlyplayfoundation.org
Age	2- 5 th grade	All Ages	Ages 3-12
Scope	3 years	12 weeks	See Appendix A
Price	\$897 per year (flat rate)	Between \$79 and \$129 depending on church size	See Appendix A
Video/Leaflet/Bible	Yes/No/No	No/No/No	No/No/No
Summary (In 280 characters or less)	Wonderlink is a new curriculum from David C. Cook. It is evangelical in its theology, and employs updated teaching methods that encourage wonder and creativity with the core values as tentpoles as participants engage the Bible.	Illustrated Compassion is a simple 12 week curriculum that is focused on low preparation and connecting Biblical stories with compassionate actions. This curriculum would be perfect for a seasonal study, or for an inter-generational setting.	Godly Play is a methodology as much as it is a curriculum. It is based on the principles of Montessori learning and invites children into a place of play that encourages curiosity and exploration. Full engagement with this material will completely alter a ministry.