

## Curriculum Considerations

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### Questions to Consider Before Looking at Curriculum Resources:

- How does your Sunday School time work? (Are different age groups separated? Is everyone together? Do you use a rotation model?)
- How do you group your ages? (Curriculum resources don't all group ages in the same way, and some offer resources for classrooms with a wide age range.)
- Where does your church fall theologically? (Are you conservative, moderate, progressive? A progressive church won't want to use theologically conservative resource.)
- How dedicated are your teachers? (How much time will they put into preparation? Are they willing to do arts activities? Games?)
- What are your children like? (Do they like arts? Are they more into games?)
- Are you more concerned with content or making sure there is an element of "fun and entertainment"?
- Does your church follow the lectionary or the seasons of the church year? (If they do, you may want a lectionary based resource to help connect Sunday School and worship.)
- What stories are important for each age group to cover? (Make a list!)
- What is the budget?
- Do we need paper or digital copies?

### Questions to Consider as You Begin Browsing Through Resources:

- What is the scope and sequence? (Does it follow a narrative or does it group stories by theme? Do they cover the important stories? Does it help children grasp the broad biblical narrative? How many years does it take to get through a full cycle?)
- How are the ages grouped and does it line up with the realities of my church?
- Who created this resource? (A certain denomination? An ecumenical group? This can provide a clue to the theology present.)
- What extras do I have to have in order to use this curriculum? (Things like story packs, special Bibles, and student books.)
- Does it fit my budget? (Be sure to factor in the extras you'll need to order.)
- What helpful resources are available to me or teachers online/in print?

Questions to Consider as You Look at Sample Lessons for Each Age Group  
(You should look at lessons for each age group for which you would be purchasing material)

- How much room does it leave for children to discover their own meanings?
- Does it ask open-ended questions?
- What kind of activities does it suggest? Are there options? (Are the activities feasible for your kids? Your teachers? Your budget? Do they allow for creativity? Does it rely heavily on worksheets?)
- How much teacher preparation does it require? (Will my teachers do the preparation?)
- Does it provide good information for teachers? (Be looking for information on the story and on the children they teach.)
- What kind of language does it use to talk about God? Jesus? The Holy Spirit? Faith?
- Does it pay any attention to child development?
- Is it child-spiritually-friendly? Does it focus on helping children know God or does it place more emphasis on having children know about God?