



# UPDATE

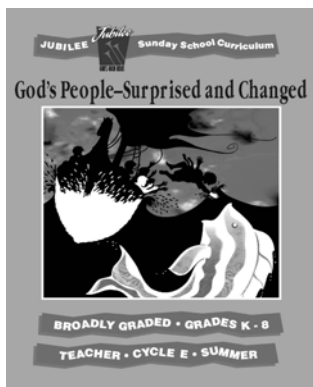
News and Notes About the Curriculum

## God's People—Surprised and Changed Cycle E Summer

Welcome to a quarter of transformation stories! These stories will resonate with teachers and children who experience change in major and small ways. Stories illustrate God's transforming love and guidance: from Rebekah's quick yes, to Naaman's healing, to Jonah's flight from God, to Mary Magdalene's recognition of Jesus, to Paul's astounding conversion and Peter's welcome of a new friend. All were changed by the power of God's Spirit.

Early Childhood teachers return to Cycle B Summer Teacher's Guide with "Stories of Faith." Beginning with the creation story, young children will meet God in the lives of special people just like them.

As teachers, let yourselves be caught in the wonder and enthusiasm of children as they learn more about our great God through these exciting stories.



### Use Jubilee for Summer Worship and Education

Summer time learning can be transformative when teachers and children move from the comfort of routine to experience new models for learning. What can you do to infuse your summer program with new life?

Involve the whole congregation in the theme of transformation. A reproducible *Worship-Education Guide* (Cycle E Summer) provides a wealth of ideas for

all ages to experience God's good news the Jubilee way during the summer. Order this resource from your publisher.

Set up response stations for each session. After hearing the story, invite children to choose one or more stations in which to respond to the story. Older children can provide leadership with the story and activities. Use the summer to mentor children as leaders. Affirm their efforts and prepare to be surprised and changed by their gifts.

### Memory Challenge

With a more relaxed summer schedule, encourage children to memorize these Bible texts for the quarter: Philippians 4:4-9 and/or Romans 12:1-8. Here are some ideas to be creative.

- **Use a beat.** Try hand-clapping, bouncing a basketball, drumming, or skipping with a jump rope. Repeat the verses until children can say it without missing a beat – then increase the beat.
- **Unscramble the verses.** Print words or phrases on small pieces of paper and mix them up. Children work against the clock to put the words in order and repeat them from memory.
- **Use the computer.** Print the verses on the computer and delete words slowly until the text is learned.
- **Illustrate the text.** Use symbols or cut out pictures to represent key words and phrases.

### House-Cleaning Time

Cycle C is the final year for *Jubilee*. Now is the time to do some summer house-cleaning for Cycles A and B.

**Share the leftovers.** Since the materials have been created for the children, would it be appropriate to let them take home the extra student leaflets, as well as posters and music cassettes?

**Make a Jubilee collage.** Children make a poster or collage from favorite pictures from the resource box and/or student pieces.

**Create files for the library.** Cut out the teacher tips for future reference. File the spiral Bible story books in the library for children to sign out and read at home. Document the resources for easy access in the future.

## Cycle C Fall

Old Testament themes and stories will engage the children this quarter. The very young will hear stories of people who loved God; older children review the journey to the Promised Land and stories that illustrate the Ten Commandments. Junior youth consider responses to issues such as violence, lying, cheating that were also faced by people in the Bible times.

### How Do We Respond as Parents?

How do parents walk alongside their youth as they grapple with serious issues faced by biblical characters? Look in the junior youth resource box for the brief Leader's Guide designed to give adults handles for faith conversations at home and build supportive relationships among parents of adolescents.

### Centered Teaching

Children from kindergarten to grade five will study thirteen Hebrew personalities who are featured in the Cycle C Fall Teacher's Guides for the primary and middle age groups. "People who love God live differently" is the title for this quarter's center approach to teaching. Each session includes a Bible story or reader's theatre piece, worship rituals, and four response activity choices.

This approach to learning can freshen Jubilee sessions for both teachers and children. Order from your publisher.



Brethren Press and Mennonite Publishing Network are well on the way in the publishing partnership for *Gather 'Round*. Teams are developing the new products, the design look and the Bible outlines. Writers are creating second quarter sessions.

Here are some of the new features to look forward to:

- **Multi-age Teacher Guide.** This guide is created especially for congregations who have few children and a wide age range. The writer has added ideas for adults to participate.

- **Parent/Caregivers Teacher's Guide.** Another first for children's curriculum – resources for parents and caregivers! Adults will study the same biblical texts as their children and learn how to take the faith conversations home.
- **Resource for the home.** Quarterly products for the kitchen table that encourage children and their parents to talk about the Bible story and spiritual matters on a daily basis.
- **Quarterly Student Resources** for use in the classroom will replace the weekly student leaflets for all age levels. Each age group will have its own unique style and design.
- **Different Classes – Same Story.** All ages will study the same Bible story each week from an age-appropriate perspective. This will give families the opportunity to learn more from each other as they share their classroom experiences at home.
- **Web site.** Soon a curriculum web site will be up and running with foundational documents, Bible outlines, and other information.

## Budgeting for 2006

*What will this new curriculum cost?* The publishers are busy developing products, determining production costs, and projecting prices. Specific information about quarterly prices is expected this fall or as soon as it is known.

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