



# UPDATE

News and Notes About the Curriculum

## Cycle C

With the fall quarter, we celebrate the beginning of the fourth and final cycle of usage for *Jubilee: God's Good News*. Beginning in 1994, Jubilee has been influential in forming faith in a whole generation of children. As you prepare for this final round of Jubilee, thank God for the privilege of using this curriculum to form faith, inform minds, and transform lives.

Two experimental features of Cycle C will become part of the norm for the new curriculum beginning next fall.

### Parent Resource

There is a leader's guide for parents to go with the junior youth curriculum for the fall quarter. *How do we respond as parents?* is part of the Junior Youth Resource Box. This guide is meant to build supportive networks between parents of junior youth and to encourage adults to walk alongside youth by grappling with their issues. *Gather 'Round* will feature a regular quarterly resource for parents and caregivers based on the same stories that their children and youth are studying.

### Common Scripture Text

In Cycle C winter and spring the children in primary, middler, and junior youth classes study the same Bible story. Each level has its own age-appropriate response activities. This provides opportunity for creative alternatives to teaching and learning. The *Gather 'Round* curriculum has expanded this feature so that children and parent/caregivers will be using the same scripture texts every Sunday. We have added a youth component, so that, beginning in 2006, learners will return to the text every four years and examine it at a deeper faith level.

### Centered Teaching Supplementary Resource

*People Who Love God Live Differently* is a multiage resource that can be used with the primary and middler Jubilee sessions this fall. The Bible story is at the heart of the session. Rituals and response activities provide meaningful connections. Order this from your publisher.

## A Litany to Begin the Church School Year

### Leader

Teachers and parents are partners in the important ministry of faith formation in children. We share the responsibility of teaching our children to know God and follow Jesus through the biblical story, worship, and learning together. Today we commit ourselves to be faithful stewards of our children's faith.

### All Parents

Today I place my child in your care for one very important hour. You have agreed to be her teacher, to nurture her faith through prayer, play, story, and activities. I have these expectations of you:

### Parent of a preschool child

For my young child, I ask that you

- help her experience God's caring presence
- be God's trusting arms and face for him
- hold her if she wants to be held, let her go if she wants to play
- assume that he won't sit still for very long

### Parent of a primary child

For my seven-year-old child, I ask that you

- help him experience God's caring presence
- encourage her to explore and discover God through story, play, and action
- give him a sense of belonging and acceptance
- respect her creativity and energy

### Parent of a middler child

For my ten-year-old child, I ask that you

- help her experience God's caring presence
- offer him freedom to explore, discover, create and learn to know God in many ways
- encourage her in wondering and responding to God's story
- affirm and accept his gifts and abilities

## Parent of a junior youth

For my junior higher, I ask that you

- help him experience God's caring presence
- walk with her as she asks hard questions about faith and the church
- be quick to listen and slow to give answers
- help her to know Jesus as friend, guide, and Savior

## Teachers

We take seriously our responsibilities as teachers and faith guides of your children. We, too, have expectations of you as the children's parents. We ask that you

- pray for us regularly
- encourage and affirm us as teachers
- talk with your children about their experience of Sunday school
- with your children, be regular and active participants in the life of the church and its programs

## Leader (to teachers)

Teachers, you are not "just a Sunday school teacher"—you are an important guide to the children as they begin their walk with Jesus. You are a minister of God's love and grace to the church's children. May you serve God and the church with joy, patience, gentleness, self-confidence and creativity.

## Leader (to congregation)

Today we bless a new year of teaching and learning.

- We bless the children who will learn to know God and each other.
- We bless the teachers who will grow to understand biblical truths as they prepare to teach.
- We bless the parents who will partner with the teachers in sharing God's good news with their children.
- We pray that in our teaching ministry, God will bless us and make us a blessing. Amen.



Check out the Gather 'Round web site for the latest in this brand new curriculum coming in the fall of 2006.

[www.gatherround.org](http://www.gatherround.org)

## Fall and Winter Jubilee Celebrations



Add some variety to your fall worship and education experiences by celebrating the Jubilee way, using themes the three *Jubilee Celebrations* books. These are complete services to use with children and adults and can be ordered from your publisher.

For the **opening of the church school year**, use "Simchat Torah" (Book 1, #1) or "Side-by-Side" (Book 3, #1)

For **thanksgiving**, check out "Thinking and Thanking" (Book 1, #2), "Yet Will I Rejoice and Give Thanks" (Book 2, #2), or "The Festival of Booths" (Book 3, #2)

For the **Advent/Christmas/Epiphany** season, note "God's Gift" (Book 1, #3), "We Await the Christ Who Liberates" (Book 2, #3), or "How Fantastic!" (Book 3, #3)

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