



UPDATE

News and Notes About the Curriculum

Cycle A Spring Quarter March, April, May 2004

The gospel of Luke provides our stories for this quarter. Children meet Jesus as teacher, wise companion, and healer, who showed people how to follow God's ways.

The four Lent sessions are the same for primary, middler and junior youth. Use the following schedule for 2004:

Mar. 7, 14, 21:	sessions 5, 6, 7
Mar. 28:	session 1 (2 Sundays before Easter)
Apr. 4:	session 2 (Palm Sunday)
Apr. 11:	session 3 (Easter)
Apr. 18:	session 4 (Sunday after Easter)
Apr. 25-May 30:	sessions 8-13

Note the different sequence for Early Childhood sessions:

Mar. 7, 14, 21:	session 7, 8, 9
Mar. 28:	session 1 (2 Sundays before Easter)
Apr. 4:	session 2 (Palm Sunday)
Apr. 11:	session 3 (Easter)
Apr. 18:	session 4 (Sunday after Easter)
Apr. 25:	session 5 (2 Sundays after Easter)
May 2:	session 6 (3 Sundays after Easter)
May 9-30:	sessions 10-13



Centered Teaching and Jubilee

To use a different format for teaching *Jubilee*, consider *Centered Teaching*, a supplementary resource to use with the spring quarter. This is a teacher resource that utilizes stories from primary, middler, and junior youth Teacher's Guides to provide for a multi-age or broadly-graded format. "Jesus Shows Us How to Live," the

chosen title for *Centered Teaching (Cycle A Spring)* includes a rewritten Bible story for use with all the children. There are six response activities for each session which are geared to specific age groups or can be used as interest centers. Some activities come from the teacher's guides; others are new suggestions. *Centered Teaching* does not replace existing materials found in the Teacher's Guides, Student leaflets, and Resource Boxes for primary, middler, and junior youth groups. It is meant to enhance what is there and provide more flexibility in how *Jubilee* is taught.

Centered Teaching may also appeal to churches that follow the church season of Lent. Sessions begin on February 29 in order to begin the Lenten journey. A worship ritual is part of each Sunday in Lent and an extender session has been added for Pentecost Sunday (May 30). Contact your publisher for more details or visit the *Jubilee* website.

Plan Ahead for Summer

This summer we return to Cycle D for our broadly-graded quarter, "God Gives Good Gifts." Along with the Bible stories, look for dramas, games, and art projects.

This action-packed quarter offers great ways to mix children of every age and even include youth and adults! Ask your publisher for the *Worship-Education Guide* which provides hymns, sermon suggestions, and response activities to engage the entire congregation in both its worship and learning settings.

God is everywhere!

I am being blessed by many God moments as I teach the early childhood class. "God said, I will be with you," was the memory verse for the session.

As I told the story of God's call to Abraham and Sarah, trying to stay focused as the children added their stickers to the story board, and preparing to make the connection with the memory verse, a three year old burst out with a joyous declaration: "God is everywhere!" I could only add, "Yes, indeed. God is everywhere. God was with Abraham and Sarah and God is with us today." (Elsie Rempel, Winnipeg, MB.)

Plan a Refreshing Jubilee Workshop

Last fall Marlene Bogard organized a successful workshop for Kansas and area teachers to look at *Jubilee* with fresh eyes. Along with Rosella Wiens Regier, she reminded teachers of the importance of *Jubilee's* Anabaptist emphasis and its unique features. Seasoned teachers welcomed the opportunity for review while new teachers became energized with the possibilities this curriculum offers.

I wonder, what would happen if teachers taught *Jubilee* as if it were for the very first time? Or if we knew children were hearing the stories for the very first time? Would it make a difference if we knew we might be the only introduction children have to God and God's ways? Experienced teachers, concentrate your planning time on finding ways to guide the children in your care in an ever-deepening relationship with God.

Superintendents, to infuse fresh energy into the program consider the following suggestions:

Conduct a *Jubilee* audit of each classroom.

- ✿ Visual appeal: memory posters, pictures, art work
- ✿ Worship sense: table or cloth, candle, Bible, blanket for prayer, art or other symbols
- ✿ *Jubilee* teaching tools: story figures, time line for research and reference, cassette tapes, student leaflets, other items from the Resource Box
- ✿ Welcoming atmosphere: proper lighting and heat, comfortable chairs, adequate supplies, names of the children posted somewhere

Plan a "Re-introduction to *Jubilee*" event.

- ✿ View the *Jubilee* storytelling video and/or demonstrate the use of story figures for new teachers and those needing encouragement.
- ✿ Sponsor an in-service on learning styles and interest centers. Invite a professional teacher to provide tips.

- ✿ Review the foundational essays in the *Jubilee Guidebook* and the video, *Nurturing Faith*, as reminders of our theological and biblical focus.

What Every Superintendent Wants to Hear

Finding teachers is frustrating and time-consuming. In many congregations, however, we find gems, those teachers who love the children, the curriculum, and their volunteer ministry in the education program. These quotes remind me that successful teaching comes from effective match-making and quality curriculum.

I had a wonderful experience teaching. For one thing, I had a good class. For another, this age group was more to my liking. And for the first time, I taught the entire quarter. Because of the continuity, I found myself and the children eager to follow the quarter long ideas. We consistently ran out of time.

Teaching is the most rewarding thing I have ever done in the church. I believe it is because Jubilee is so easy to use with its creativity. The children love to come. This has been a wonderful adventure for both the children and for me. Thank you!

We'd love to share your Jubilee stories. Submit them to the *Jubilee* office or editor Eleanor Snyder esnyder@mph.org.

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