

Tool 1



Choosing Curricula for Faith Communities

When choosing a curriculum for Bible studies, Sunday school, retreats and other educational programs or events in your church, consider the following:

1. How long will it take to prepare each session? How clear are the instructions?
2. Is the curriculum easily adaptable?
3. Does it assume that the participants—whether children or adults—share the same ethnic origin?
4. Does the curriculum assume a particular culture and/or class? Canadian or American? Middle class?
5. Can you identify the theology the curriculum is presenting?
Who is God? Jesus? the Holy Spirit?
Who and what is the Church?
What role do the Scriptures play?
What world view does the curriculum present?
6. How well does the curriculum use symbols and rituals? Are the symbols accurate?
7. Is the curriculum appropriate for its target audience?
8. Is there a variety of age-appropriate activities from which planners can choose?
9. Do the activities take into account different learning styles? (Things to read, touch, see, do.)
10. Is the “moral of the story” clearly articulated?
11. Does your church have the space, equipment, amount of time and number of volunteers required to implement the curriculum?
12. Does the curriculum provide volunteers opportunities to grow in their own faith?

Any questions or comments? Please contact the Elders’ Institute for information.

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