

Christmas Resources for use with Children

Available to borrow from the **United Media Resource Center**

To request resources, contact Jill Stone at umrc@igrc.org or 217-529-2744

DVDs:

ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: THE KING IS BORN (101021) Animated story of Jesus' birth beginning with Simeon awaiting the Messiah in the temple of Jerusalem. Concludes with Mary and Joseph's return from Egypt to Nazareth where Jesus grew up. Copy 5 provides optional Spanish and English soundtrack and subtitles. Activity book available separately. Lower elementary – Upper elementary 30 Minutes.

Complimentary resource:

ANIMATED STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT: THE KING IS BORN ACTIVITY BOOK

(810085) This reproducible resource and activity book includes coloring pages, puzzles, matching games, word searches, and more. Activities are designed in three levels of difficulty -- easy, intermediate, advanced.

BEDBUG BIBLE GANG: CHRISTMAS SHOW! (102005) Join the fun and lively bedbugs and learn the stories of Mary's Surprise, Follow the Star, and The Shepherds of Bethlehem. Each story includes the Bible story told in rhyme, a song, and an on-screen puzzle. Also includes the fun story of 'Freezy the Bedbug,' a story of kindness and unselfishness. Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary 27 Minutes.

BEDBUG BIBLE GANG: FOLLOWING GOD! (102059) Join the fun and lively bedbugs to learn Bible stories. Three 23-minute episodes on 1 DVD: 1) Lots of Lights! features **Three Wise Men**, Light of the World, and Transfiguration; 2) God Is Calling! features Noah's Call, Anointing of David, and The Twelve Disciples; 3) Heading to Heaven! features Elijah and the Chariot, The Rich Man and Lazarus, and Jesus' Ascension. Each story includes the Bible story told in rhyme, a song, and an on-screen puzzle. Also includes the songs 'The Bedbug Barbershop Quartet,' 'The Weather Bug,' and 'Rub-a-Dub Bedbugs.' Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary

BEDBUG BIBLE GANG: PLANTS AND ANIMALS! (102062) Join the fun and lively bedbugs to learn Bible stories. Three 23-minute episodes on 1 DVD: 1) Playing with Plants! features The Wheat and the Weeds, Jonah and the Shade Tree, Vine and Branches; 2) Animal Pals! features Daniel for Dinner, The Lost Sheep, Palm Sunday Donkey; 3) Shepherds and Sheep! features Burning Bush, **Bethlehem Shepherds**, The Sheep and the Goats. Each story includes the Bible story told in rhyme, a song, and an on-screen puzzle. Also includes the songs 'Bedbug Dance Party,' 'Bedbugs on Safari,' and 'Bedbug Alphabet.' Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary

CHRISTMAS (103010) Part of the 'Holidays for Children' series. DVD chapters: Introduction; The Birth of Jesus; Christmas Traditions; Storybook: Gunther Canary (helping others); Christmas Carols: Little Drummer Boy; Santa Countdown Calendar Part 1; Santa Claus; Christmas Celebrations; Santa Countdown Calendar Part 2; Christmas Carols: All Things Bright and Beautiful. Includes leader's guide. Has English and Spanish language tracks. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.** Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary 23 Minutes.

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD (103011) Part of the 'Holidays for Children' series. DVD chapters: Introduction; Christmas Italian Style!; Religious Celebrations; Storybook: Pepita's Flowers (a simple gift is honored); Christmas Hawaiian Style!; 'O, Christmas Tree': A Christmas Song; Christmas Traditions; Cool Crafts: Hungarian Ornaments; Conclusion. Includes leader's guide. Has English and Spanish language tracks. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.** Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary 23 Minutes.

CHRISTMAS STORYKEEPERS (103056) Fleeing the wrath of Nero, the Storykeepers take with them their most precious possession -- the stories of Jesus. Even as the emperor escalates his war on Christians, Ben, Helena, and their family of orphans celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. Share in this Christmas adventure, told only as the Storykeepers can tell it, as they take the stories of Jesus' birth and life to the whole world. Tales of Mary, Joseph, the child Jesus, Herod, the Magi, the shepherds, and the later ministry of Jesus are woven throughout the action-packed adventures of Ben and his gang. **CLOSED CAPTIONED.** Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary 70 Minutes.

FIRST CHRISTMAS AND OTHER STORIES (106024) "The First Christmas" (21 min.) -- Christopher Plummer narrates the traditional story of the birth of Jesus, beginning with Mary and Joseph's trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem. It includes the announcement to the shepherds and the Magi who trek across the desert guided by the mysterious star. "The Chimes" (23 min.) -- Toby, a poor but kind man, is told by the well-to-do that the poor shouldn't have been born. In a dream, the spirits of the church bells remind him to hang on to hope. He awakens to a new year with renewed joy and thankfulness. "A Christmas Gift" (9 min.) -- Based on a ballad entitled 'Christmas Dinner,' this is a story of a boy, celebrating the food and festivities of Christmas Eve, who decides to share his bit of bread and cheese with a lonely woman; she can share only a drop of wine from her bare table--symbols of the Eucharist. Age: All.

GREAT BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES: VOLUME 3 (107026) Join host David Mead as he guides the way through classic stories of the Scripture, explaining the action and posing questions in a fresh, entertaining way. Each of the three episodes on this DVD features a lively interactive approach with live action mixed with storybook style animation. A final quiz following the credits of each story serves as a learning summary. Includes: 1) **Discovering the Baby King: The Story of Christmas** (30 min.); 2) Discovering the Empty Tomb: The Story of Easter (35 min.); 3) Discovering the Kingdom: Jesus' Kingdom Parables (30 min.). Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary

HOW CAN I CELEBRATE ADVENT? (108011) A Young Christian's Guide to the Church Year. Beth and her brother, Digger, can hardly wait for the Christmas celebration to come, so they are excited to learn about and take part in the season of Advent. Beth explains to him the meaning behind the five Advent candles: 1) Prophet's candle (hope), 2) Bethlehem candle (prepare), 3) Shepherd's candle (joy), 4) Angels' candle (believe), and 5) Jesus candle. They also discuss Advent wreaths, Advent chains, Advent calendars, and 'Emmanuel.' Includes short rhyming versions of the following Bible stories: Adam and Eve, Isaiah, John the Baptist, the angel visits Mary, the angels visit the shepherds, the shepherds visit baby Jesus. Age: Preschool – Lower elementary 27 Minutes

JESUS GROWS UP / JESUS: WHAT HE SAID, WHAT HE DID (110002) This DVD includes two short segments for children on the life and ministry of Jesus. **Jesus Grows Up** -- This segment begins with the angel's visit to Mary and ends after the family's visit to Jerusalem for Passover (16 minutes). **Jesus: What He Said, What He Did** -- This segment shows Jesus' baptism, the parables of the prodigal son and the good Samaritan, Jesus performing miracles, and ends with the Crucifixion and the glorious Resurrection (21 min.). Includes leader's guide. Age: Preschool – Lower elementary

JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE: VOLUME 3 (110053) Author: Lloyd-Jones, Sally. Using illustrations from 'The Jesus Storybook Bible,' this DVD includes eleven short New Testament Bible stories: 1) **He's here! (Birth of Jesus)**; 2) **The Light of the whole world (Story of the shepherds)**; 3) **The King of all kings (Three wise men)**; 4) Heaven breaks through (Jesus is baptized); 5) Let's go! (Jesus in the desert); 6) A little girl and a poor frail lady (Jairus' daughter); 7) How to pray (The Lord's Prayer); 8) The Singer (Sermon on the Mount); 9) The Captain of the storm (Jesus calms the storm); 10) Filled full! (Feeding the 5,000); 11) Treasure hunt! (Story of the hidden treasure). Segments are 4 - 5 minutes long. Age: Preschool – Lower elementary

ON A STARRY BLUE NIGHT: HARDCOVER BOOK WITH DVD (115024) Author: Flegal, Daphna. In this 10-minute animated DVD for young children, as they set up a nativity set, children tell the following stories: Gabriel's message (Lk. 1:26-38); Mary visits Elizabeth (Lk. 1:39-66); Jesus is born (Lk. 2:1-7); and Joyous news (angels appear to the shepherds) (Lk. 2:8-20). Accompanied by a 16-page book with the same stories. Age: Preschool – Lower elementary

PATH OF JESUS (116037) Seven short dramas of the life and teachings of Jesus: Introduction (1 min.); **The Christmas Story** (9 min.); The Temptation (5 min.); Jesus and the Pharisees (10 min.); The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (8 min.); The Decision (6 min.); The Absent King (10 min.); The New Covenant (13 min.). The DVD also includes a director's commentary for each story containing behind-the-scenes information that leaders may want to show before or after each segment. Includes guide. Age: Upper elementary - Adult

STORY OF ADVENT: SPEED SKETCH BIBLE STORIES (119135) This DVD contains four Bible stories told in 'speed sketch' style which are appropriate for use with all ages. Each story is told in two versions: 1) an easy-to-understand narrated paraphrase; 2) narrated directly from the NIV 1984 translation of the Bible. Likewise, each story in both forms is available with either English or Spanish audio. Stories (paraphrase time/NIV scripture time): 1) Isaiah's vision (5 min./5 min.); 2) The magi (5 min./2 min.); 3) The annunciation (5 min./5 min.); 4) Jesus' birth (5 min./3 min.). Lesson plans and coloring pages are available online at <https://www.wesleyan.org/2668/speed-sketch-bible-stories>. Age: All

VISUAL BIBLE FOR KIDS: CHRISTMAS/EASTER (122001) Includes two stories: 'The Birth of Jesus' (25 min.) and 'The Story Behind the Cross' (27 min.). Scenes from the Visual Bible are inserted into contemporary stories of skeptical youth learning about Jesus. Age: Lower elementary – Upper elementary

Kit:

CELEBRATE: CHURCH PLANNING KIT (103108) This four-week program focuses on acts of mercy. The kit includes a church planning guide, promotional poster, sample daily devotional guide, and an enhanced DVD that includes brief worship videos, service outlines, four-week Bible studies in print format for adults, youth, and children (ages 4 - 12), and more.

Books:

ADVENT JESSE TREE (814054) Author: Lambert, Dean Meador. Devotions for Children and Adults to Prepare for the Coming of the Christ Child at Christmas. Designed as a 25-day devotional guide, this book includes a short devotion each day for both children and adults. Suggestions for making an Advent Jesse Tree with ornaments is included.

ALL TOGETHER NOW: VOLUME 2: WINTER (815110) Author: Keffer, Lois. 13 Sunday school lessons when you have kids of all ages in one room. 1) **God gives us faith to do hard things / The mother of Jesus chooses to follow God** (Lk. 1:26-38; Isa. 7:14); 2) **God leads us in surprising ways / Joseph obediently follows God** (Mt. 1:18-24; Isa. 9:6-7); 3) **Those who seek God will find Him / Strangers follow a star to find Jesus** (Mt. 2:1-12; Zech. 8:22); 4) **God sent his son, Jesus, to save the world / Jesus is born in difficulty and chaos** (Lk. 2:1-20; Mt. 2:9-11; Mic. 5:2); 5) Tell others about Jesus / John the Baptist baptizes Jesus (Mt. 3:1-17; Mk. 1:1-11; Lk 1:5-25, 39-45, 57-66; 3:1-22; Jn. 1:19-34; Isa. 40:3-5); 6) Jesus' teachings and healings are amazing / Jesus begins his ministry of healing and teaching (Lk. 4:31-44; 5:12-16; Isa. 61:1-2); 7) We can put our faith in Jesus' power / Jesus rewards the faith of a Gentile (Mt. 8:5-13; Isa. 11:10); 8) Jesus' love can change anyone / Jesus calls a despised tax collector as a disciple (Mt. 9:9-13; Hos. 6:6); 9) Jesus provides everything we need / Jesus miraculously feeds thousands (Mk. 6:14-44; Jn. 6:1-14; Deut. 8:1-3); 10) Jesus helps people be friends / Jesus talks with the Samaritan woman at the well (Jn. 4:1-42; Ps. 22:22-28); 11) Friends can help each other follow Jesus / Friends of a paralyzed man do whatever it takes to meet Jesus (Mk. 2:1-12; Mal. 2:1-9; 3:1); 12) God wants us to serve others / James and John ask Jesus for privileged status (Mk. 10:35-45; Isa. 52:13-15); 13) We can call Jesus our friend / Blind Bartimaeus shouts out to Jesus and is heard (Mk. 10:46-52; Ps. 40:1-3, 16).

AROUND THE YEAR IN CHILDREN'S CHURCH: 52 PROGRAMS FOR KIDS AGES 3 - 7 (814159) Author: Flinn, Lisa and Younger, Barbara. This book contains active, hands-on lessons that will help children understand how the Christian church marks time. Each program contains a simple Christian message, a Bible verse, a story, a prayer, a music suggestion, and a craft to reinforce the message. Lessons include the major seasons of Advent, Lent, and Pentecost, and also lesser-known holidays including Candlemas, the Festival of Booths, World Communion Sunday, and Christ the King Sunday. God's world, Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Back-to-School, and Thanksgiving are all viewed from a Christian perspective. Help the children in your Children's Church program understand these and other holidays.

AUGSBURG SERMONS FOR CHILDREN (815068) Drawn primarily from Luke and John, this book contains sixty children's sermons based on Series C Gospel texts. Includes messages for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTMAS (805212) Author: O'Neal, Debbie Trafton. Activities and Ideas for Advent and Epiphany. This book provides a variety of activities, service projects, crafts, Bible readings, reflections and family worship ideas, and fascinating facts and histories for Advent and the 12 days of Christmas.

BEYOND GROUNDHOGS AND GOBLERS (804223) Author: Slazmann, Cyndy. Putting Meaning Back into Your Holiday Celebrations. Put the 'holy' back into your holidays with this month-by-month guide. Includes New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Groundhog Day, St. Valentine's Day, President's Day, St. Patrick's Day, April Fool's Day, Easter Season, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Birthdays, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Halloween/Halloween Alternatives, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas. Includes recipes.

CELEBRATING ADVENT: FAMILY DEVOTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON (811056) Author: Hibbard, Ann. Chapter titles: What's missing at Christmas?; Steps to a happier Christmas; Advent

devotions -- a note to parents; Advent devotions year one; Advent devotions year two; Celebrating Christmas and Epiphany; Family worship at Christmas; Twelfth Night party. Includes instructions for an Advent tree banner, Jesse tree, and Advent wreath.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHRISTIAN YEAR (805057) Author: Halverson, Delia. Useful, easy-to-use guidance, resources, and reproducible pages help new and veteran children's leaders interpret the meaning of the Christian year to children from preschool through elementary age.

CHILDREN'S DRAMAS FOR THE CHURCH YEAR: REPRODUCIBLE DRAMAS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS (814218) Author: Miller, Linda Ray. A collection of skits, readings, poems, and simple songs for use with children of all ages. Most selections take less than ten minutes to perform and props and scenery are minimal.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND ACTIVITIES (805213) A Practical Guide for Christian Education Directors and Sunday School Teachers. This book includes craft, game, activity, story, and snack ideas for teachers of preschool, lower elementary, and upper elementary children.

CHRISTMAS EXTRAS: FAITH-FILLED IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS (812120) This small booklet includes ideas for Get Ready for Jesus, Angel Announcements, Jesus Is Born, and Wise Men Worship Jesus for use with children.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! BUT WAITING IS HARD! (816211) Author: Whiting, Karen. Family Activities and Devotions for Advent. This Advent book contains family devotions that focus on connecting Jesus and the symbols of Christmas. Each day includes a devotional, prayer, questions to discuss, the meaning of a Christmas symbol, and suggested activities to put the scriptures into action. Reproducibles are included to help with the symbol activities.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPE: AN ADVENT EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN (812068) Author: Flegal, Daphna and Stoner, Marcia. 'The Christmas Shoppe' is an event where children of all ages hear the Christmas story, create Christmas symbols to be sold to support a mission project of the church's choice, and prepare and participate in a worship service with parents or with the entire congregation. Includes plans for a one-day, weekend, or four-week option. Children rotate through six departments: angel, manger, candy cane, star, card, and bakery. In each department, children hear part of the Christmas story and make items for the sale. The second portion of the event deals with preparing for a closing worship presentation and setting up for the sale. An accompanying CD-ROM includes PowerPoint slides and a variety of printable materials.

CHRISTMAS TREASURES (807162) A Collection of Congregational Resources for Advent/Christmas. This anthology provides a selection of seasonal worship, drama, and children's worship from a variety of denominations. Includes: readings for Advent and Christmas candle lighting, dramatic readings, plays, a Sunday school Christmas program, and children's sermons for Advent and Christmas.

CHRISTMENT TREE, VOLUME 1 (804210) Author: Harpine, Elaine Clanton. How to Make Christian Ornaments for Your Christmas Tree. Photographs, instructions, and patterns for 21 Christments, some easy enough for children to make. Includes a story to be read while the Christments are hung on the tree.

CHRISTMENT TREE, VOLUME 2 (804211) Author: Harpine, Elaine Clanton. 21 Christian Ornaments for Your Christmas Tree. Photographs, instructions and patterns for 21 all-new beaded Christments centered around the theme 'We Follow Jesus.' Each Christment is identified by its level of difficulty: Level 1-easy enough for young children through Level 5-for craft-oriented adults. Includes a Christmas story for the hanging of the Christments.

DEEP BLUE YEAR OF FESTIVALS: INTERGENERATIONAL CELEBRATIONS (816165) Eight intergenerational celebrations organized to include worship, fun, and faith formation. Each plan includes schedules, activities, worship outlines, event setups, and suggestions for advertising and outreach into the community. Includes: Harvest jamboree; Fall festival; Reverse Advent celebration; New year praise and prayer; Lenten community pilgrimage; Pentecost planting -- salad in a pot; Summer fun progressive picnic; Costume party.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BIBLE GAMES FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (806175) Author: Witte, Vicki and Keefer, Mikal, editors. Part 1: Bible Story Games. Part 2: Jesus Is...Games. Part 3: The Bible Is...Games. Part 4: Holiday Games

(Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas). Part 5: Wild 'n' Wacky Games. Part 6: Total Silence Games. Part 7: Travel Time Games. Part 8: Icebreaker Games. Part 9: Group Builder Games. Includes Scripture and Energy-level indexes.

FLOOD PUNCH, BOWL BREAD, AND GROUP SOUP: 60 MULTI-AGE ACTIVITIES FOR CHRISTIAN KIDS (805244) Author: Flinn, Lisa and Younger, Barbara. This book uses food as a teaching link to the Bible and the Christian faith. Unit 1: Tasting the Goodness of God's Word. Unit 2: Exploring Stories of the Old and New Testaments. Unit 3: Celebrating Holy Days and Holidays. Unit 4: Sharing God's Bounty. Unit 5: Sampling Foods of the Holy Land. Unit 6: Savoring Symbols of Faith.

HOMEMADE YEAR: THE BLESSINGS OF COOKING, CRAFTING, AND COMING TOGETHER (814006) Author: Greer, Jerusalem Jackson. The author shares her experiences of sharing the liturgical year with her family. Includes crafts and recipes. Chapters: Advent; St. Lucy's Day; Christmas Day; St. Stephen's Day; Epiphany; Candlemas; Shrove Tuesday; Ash Wednesday; The Season of Lent; St. Joseph's Day; Palm Sunday; Maundy Thursday; Holy Saturday; Easter; Pentecost Sunday; Corpus Christi; St. James's Day; Ordinary Time; Holy Cross Day; Michaelmas; All Saints' and All Souls' Day; Christ the King Sunday.

IT IS EASY BEING GREEN! 60 BIBLE STORIES AND CRAFTS WITH THE EARTH IN MIND (814013) Author: Stickler, LeeDell. Designed for use with children ages 6 - 8, each lesson includes a Bible story and an Earth-friendly craft using 'recycled' items that are common to most households. Includes Scripture index. Includes “**And the Angel Said,**” “**One Special Night,**” and “**Follow That Star!**”

MORE CHILDREN'S SERMONS (876411) Author: Dann, Bucky. Provides a basis for topics such as physical nature, sexuality, death, self-esteem, anger, the nature of God, discipleship, God's gifts, **Christmas**, dealing with evil, and the environment. Each unit has a suggested theme, object lesson, and dialogue to help children understand and grow in faith.

MOUSE TALES--THINGS HOPED FOR: ADVENT, CHRISTMAS, AND EPIPHANY (805209) Author: Boling, Ruth. Set in the fictional town of Hillsborough and its church, the Church of the Least of These, church mice live, work, and play together. This collection of stories, which take place during the Christmas season, shows the community--and especially six memorable children in one Sunday School class--learning how to care for one another, welcome outsiders, disagree in love, forgive their friends, and love as Christ loves. Includes full-color illustrations.

PASSING IT ON: HOW TO NURTURE YOUR CHILDREN'S FAITH SEASON BY SEASON (815174) Author: Oliver, Kara Lassen. Providing plans for four units (**Advent -- preparing to receive the gifts of Christmas**, **Lent -- living in the awkward season**, **summer -- turning ordinary into extraordinary**, and **back-to-school -- growing fruit of the Spirit**) this book provides plans for weekly family gatherings with age-appropriate activities. A leader's guide for parent groups using the book together is also provided.

PEANUT BUTTER, PAPER, AND PASTE (805224) Author: Gilliam, Brenda. Classroom Crafts and Recipes for the Seasons of the Church Year. Contains activities for Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost.

PRAISE GOD WITH BANNERS (805021) Author: Stohs, Anita Reith. Includes more than 40 Bible story banner ideas and patterns. Although intended for use with children in lower grades, they would also be appropriate for youth and adults. Each banner is designed to fit a 9" x 12" piece of felt as a personal banner. Note: instead of felt, you could use scrapbooking papers.

SEASONAL SPECIALS FOR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY (814158) Celebrate 13 popular holidays with preschoolers through preteens, all from a Christian perspective. Each session includes a snack, craft, devotion, game, and more. Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas have extra activities to inspire, educate, and celebrate. Includes: New Year's Day; Valentine's Day; St. Patrick's Day; Palm Sunday; Easter; Earth Day; Mother's Day; Memorial Day; Father's Day; Independence Day; Halloween; Thanksgiving; Christmas. Includes index of activities by age-level.

SEASONS OF GOD'S LOVE: THE CHURCH YEAR (826390) Author: Fogle, Jeanne S.. This full-color picture book for children explains the special days and seasons in the Christian church year: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost.

SIDE BY SIDE: FAMILIES LEARNING AND LIVING THE FAITH TOGETHER (805246) Author: Halverson, Delia. With these family-oriented Sunday school lessons, parents and children learn about and experience the Christian faith together. Includes nine complete classroom sessions (45-60 minutes), plus suggestions, ideas, and activities for nine additional topics. Includes reproducible handouts. **Sessions include: What is Advent?; Symbols of the season; Christmas carols; What really happened?**

SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE CRUSADE WORKBOOK (832123) Author: Linton, Cam and Weber, F. David. A step-by-step guide for churches seeking to plan, implement, and sustain a Sunday School Attendance Crusade. Designed to be used from Advent through Epiphany, this workbook is part of the VISION 2000 series of resources. Includes reproducible forms.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPECIALS VOLUME 2: QUICK AND EASY BIBLE LESSONS FOR COMBINED AGES (810028) Author: Keffer, Lois. Thirteen fun, Bible-based programs full of creative ideas for classes of ages 4 - 12 on the topics of learning to know God, showing God's love, and celebrating special times. Sessions: 1) God in first place (The Rich Young Man); 2) Circle of forgiveness (Jacob and Esau); 3) The trust test (Peter Walks on Water); 4) More like Jesus (Peter -- Betrayer to Miracle Worker); 5) Promises to keep (God Saves Noah's Family); 6) All kinds of families (Joseph and His Brothers); 7) When things get tough (Joseph -- Slave, Prisoner, Commander); 8) Faith to give away (Naaman and the Servant Girl); 9) Thank you, Lord! (A lesson for Thanksgiving or any time); 10) **God with us** (A lesson for Christmas or for Christmas in July); 11) New Beginnings (A lesson for New Year's or any time); 12) A little love and kindness (A lesson for Valentine's Day or any day); 13) Jesus lives! (A lesson for Easter or any time). Includes supply lists, active learning experiences, interactive Bible stories, life applications, and reproducible handouts.

TEA PARTIES WITH A PURPOSE (811087) Author: Wolgemuth, Bobbie. 10 Simple and Fun Party Ideas for Kids of All Ages. For moms, teachers, grandmas, Bible school leaders, or anyone who loves the idea of sharing a tea party with little friends, this book is for you! Valuable life lessons are taught through themed parties that are complete with recipes, craft instructions, song selections, and devotional messages. Themes: Under the Sea Tea; Snowflake Tea Party; Honeybee Tea; Happy Day Tea; Home Sweet Home Tea; Angel Tea Party; Hands and Feet Tea; Teddy Bear Picnic Tea; Asian Tea Party; **Happy Birthday Jesus Tea Party.**

TEACHING & CELEBRATING THE CHRISTIAN SEASONS (826392) Author: Halverson, Delia. A Guide for Pastors, Teachers, and Worship Leaders. For each season and special day, the author explains its history and significance and suggests age-appropriate ways to teach and celebrate these special times, helping to deepen our understanding of Christian traditions and to enrich our Sunday experience. Chapter titles: Why follow the Christian calendar?; The Lord's Day; Advent; Christmas; Epiphany; Season after Epiphany; Lent; Holy Week; Easter Sunday and the Easter Season; Pentecost; Ordinary Time or the Season after Pentecost; Other special days (Trinity Sunday, Worldwide Communion, All Saints' Day/Halloween, Thanksgiving). Includes a 'Hanging of the Greens' service and 'Way of the Cross' centers.

TELL ME A STORY (805046) Author: Wezeman, Phyllis Vos and Liechty, Anna. 30 Children's Sermons Based on Best-Loved Books: Old Turtle; Three Wise Women; I'll Always Love You; What If the Zebras Lost Their Stripes?; Benjamin Brody's Backyard Bag; The Selfish Giant; The Spyglass; Miss Fannie's Hat; The Giving Tree; Wilfrid Gordon McDonald Partridge; The Tale of the Three Trees; The Very Hungry Caterpillar; Stellaluna; The Kissing Hand; The Memory String; People; Three in One (A Picture of God); Does God Know How to Tie Shoes?; Stone Soup; You Are Special; Potluck; Swimmy; Granddad's Prayers of the Earth; Something from Nothing; In God's Name; Snowflake Bentley; The Quiltmaker's Gift; The Clown of God; **The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey; What Can I Give Him?** Includes object and scripture indexes.

THINGS TO MAKE & DO FOR ADVENT & CHRISTMAS (825444) Author: Gee, Martha Bettis. Creative Activities for Children's Ministry. Craft ideas for Advent, Christmastide, and Epiphany.

WHY JESUS FOR ME? (816196) Author: McDonough, Carol and Stoner, Marcia. A Six-Week Study for Tweens. Sessions: 1) **Why Christmas?**; 2) Why baptism?; 3) Why Lent?; 4) Why Easter?; 5) Why Pentecost?; 6) Why church?

YEAR'S WORTH OF CHILDREN'S CHURCH (811015) Author: Flinn, Lisa and Younger, Barbara. Fifty-two weeks of fun, easy-to-use, faith-building programs for the children of your church. Each session, based on a Bible verse, includes a time for cheering, sharing, listening, praying, exploring, snacking, and singing. Includes **"Following the Star," "Angels in Heaven," "Angels and Shepherds," "The Town of Bethlehem,"** and **"Christmas: Jesus' Family Tree."**

Devotional Seek-and-Find Books for Advent. Similar to the popular 'I Spy' books, these books of daily devotions, rhymes, and full-color photos are a fun way of telling the Christmas story to children. Author: David Mead.

DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?: HARDBACK (807195) PAPERBACK (806247)

HAVE YOU HEARD THE STORY OF JESUS AND HIS LOVE? (805211)

WHICH WAY IS CHRISTMAS? (808157)

WHAT COLOR IS CHRISTMAS? (807201)

Stories by Native American author Ray Buckley

CHRISTMAS MOCCASINS (899911) A story about forgiveness. After being robbed by three young men, a grandmother makes them very special moccasins, delivering them on Christmas Eve. She explains to her grandson on this journey that they are doing the Creator's work and he experiences the freedom of forgiveness.

GIVE-AWAY (899922) A story about God's gift to humankind. Realizing that people have lost their sense of identity, the birds and animals offer their most precious gifts, even at the cost of their own lives. However, the Creator explains that 'It is I who must give myself away' in the form of a humble baby.

Curriculum:

CHRISTMAS GIFTS THAT WON'T BREAK FOR CHILDREN (911017) Author: Flegal, Daphna. An Advent Study for Children. Four sessions: 1) The Gift of Hope; 2) The Gift of Love; 3) The Gift of Joy; 4) The Gift of Peace. Also includes suggestions for an all-church event. Each lesson includes introductory activities that children will select based on their interest, a large group time where children will come together to hear and interact with the Bible story, and a small group time where children will discover ways to give and receive the unbreakable gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace.

DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS: CHILDREN'S LEADER GUIDE (912036) Author: Hoelscher, Sally. Based on Mike Slaughter's book "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday," this five-session study contains ideas for younger and older children. Sessions: 1) Expect a miracle; 2) Perfectly loved by God; 3) Outrageous love; 4) Jesus' wish list; 5) By a different road. Age: Preschool – Upper elementary.

FINDING BETHLEHEM IN THE MIDST OF BEDLAM: AN ADVENT STUDY FOR CHILDREN (915030) Author: Sky, Brittany. Five sessions: 1) Nazareth; 2) Bethlehem; 3) The shepherds' field; 4) The shepherds' adventure; 5) Sharing our findings. Age: Preschool – Upper elementary.

JOURNEY: WALKING THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM -- CHILDREN'S EDITION (911019) Author: Flegal, Daphna. Five sessions: 1) Mary; 2) Joseph; 3) Elizabeth; 4) The journey to Bethlehem; 5) The shepherds. Age: Preschool – Upper elementary.

SENT: DELIVERING THE GIFT OF HOPE AT CHRISTMAS -- CHILDREN'S LEADER GUIDE (915028) Author: Hoelscher, Sally and Acevedo, Jorge. Based on Jorge Acevedo's study "Sent," this study contains ideas for younger and older children. Sessions: 1) Jesus reconciles; 2) Jesus sets us free; 3) Jesus is God with us; 4) Jesus brings new life; 5) Bonus activities for an additional session or to supplement sessions 1 - 4. For reference only: do not photocopy pages from this book. Age: Preschool – Upper elementary.