

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

Confirmation and Bible Classes



This resource list represents the LCMS Disability Ministry Task Force members' favorite books or resources for ministry to and with people with learning challenges. This list does not reflect an exhaustive accounting or an endorsed list by the LCMS.

Confirmation Curriculum

- › **Creative Confirmation**, offered by Augsburg Fortress, is a series consisting of nine leader resources and more than 300 lessons and activities that teach traditional content in an active, experiential ways. With each activity designed to last about 20 minutes, teachers customize each class session by combining activities from several of the resources. Students use the Bible, Luther's Small Catechism, their hands and their imaginations. To order visit www.augsburgfortress.org or call 800-328-4648.
- › **Building on the Rock** is a curriculum from Bethesda Lutheran Communities that offers a structure to support the First Communion process and the rite of Confirmation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To order call 877-878-6650 or visit www.bethesdalutherancommunities.org.
- › **Charting the Course** includes 62 visual aids (blackline masters) and teaching helps for confirmation instruction. This resource is available through Concordia Publishing House. To order visit www.cph.org or call 800-325-3040.
- › **The Divine Drama** from Crossways International consists of two parts. Part 1, "The Biblical Narrative," leads people through the biblical narrative and themes from creation to Christ. Part 2, "Our Narrative," studies basic Christian doctrines such as: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, sin and grace, eschatology, worship, the church, prayer, stewardship, etc. This resource can be used as a two-track course for confirmation students and their parents. All lessons use illustrative symbols to teach each lesson. This is a great series for older students and adults who are nonreaders. Check www.crossways.org for more resources and information on workshops. Video courses of many of their titles are also available. Crossways International also may be contacted at 800-257-7308.
- › **Sacramental Preparation** booklets and videos are available through the Network of Inclusive Catholic Educators (NICE), as part of the University of Dayton Institute for Pastoral Initiatives. These resources give teachers strategies to teach students with mental disabilities in the regular religious education classroom or in another setting. The videos provide in-service training for teachers on the topics of religious education and theology. To order visit www.ncpd.org/node/466 or call 888-532-3389.
- › **Listen & Learn: A Confirmation Course** consists of 16 tapes covering the commandments, creed, Sacraments, confession, prayer and more, led by various instructors. Each tape includes a musical selection to fit the theme of the lesson. Note: Lutheran Tape Ministries also offers a wide variety of other Christian material on tape, including the Old and New Testaments. Tapes are sent without charge. Freewill donations support this ministry.

For more information contact Lutheran Tape Ministries at 800-937-2591.
- › **The Simplified Catechism** is a set of resources offered by Northwestern Publishing and includes:

The Simplified Catechism (revised 1999) is a simplified version of Luther's Small Catechism, designed to help pastors, teachers and parents teach God's Word to those with low vocabulary levels, mental impairments or severe learning disabilities. It prepares students for communicant membership. Includes sessions based on five chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism. Reading level is approximately second to third grade.

The Simplified Catechism Teacher's Guide (revised 2000) is a starting point for people who lack experience in teaching or it can be used as a reference for those who may already be using successful strategies. Includes black-and-white illustrations that support materials and demonstrate student projects.

Simplified Catechism Bible Stories (revised 2000) is for use in the classroom or at home. Each Bible story relates to a lesson in *The Simplified Catechism* and every easy-to-read story includes a full-page color picture. Memory passages are listed after each story to support the lesson.

To order visit www.nph.net or call 800-662-6022.

Bible Curriculum

- › **New Invitation Bridges: A Curriculum for Persons with Disabilities** is a quarterly program of study based on Bible stories. Designed for teachers and leaders who work with people of all ages who have different or multiple disabilities, this curriculum offers a wealth of reproducible activities. Available through Abingdon Press at 800-251-3320.

› **Bethesda Lutheran Communities** offers the following resources:

Berea Project is a set of lessons based on the three-year liturgical cycle followed by most LCMS churches. It features new lessons as well as others compiled from earlier issues of Breakthrough magazine. It provides teachers with a unique opportunity to reinforce the message heard in worship services each week.

Concept Cards is a set of 25 simple, picture cards to represent different concepts such as love, Baptism, forgiveness, prayer, angels, etc. These cards are available as a part of the Building on the Rock confirmation curriculum.

Exploring Faith and Life (2004), is a curriculum designed to enhance the spiritual growth of adult Christians with developmental disabilities through music, discussion, Scripture readings and activities that encourage the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in the life of the church and community. The curriculum package includes a teacher's guide with an introductory chapter, teaching tips, suggestions, 24 Bible study lesson plans, visual aids, sheet music for 15 music songs, and a CD featuring the songs and student leaflets to accompany each of the 24 lessons. Highly recommended for adults with developmental disabilities.

Bethesda Lutheran Communities offers other resources related to religious education through the Bethesda Institute: *Opening the Door to Learning*, *Feeling Comfortable with People who Have Disabilities*, *First Conversation*, *Breakthrough* and *Building a Disability Ministry: a Manual for Congregations*. To order or for more information visit www.bethesdalutherancommunities.org or call 800-369-4636, Ext. 4448.

› ***Abiding In Faith: A Resource for Teachers of Adults with Moderate Mental Retardation*** (1994) was developed by the National Council of Churches' Committee on Disabilities. This manual helps teachers understand not just what to teach but how to teach it. It contains eight resource units with session plans. In ways they can understand, students learn to deal with such real-life issues as handling disappointment, making decisions, sharing with others and taking care of the environment in ways that express their faith. To order or for more information, contact Chalice Press at 800-366-3383 or www.chalicepress.com.

› **Concordia Publishing House** offers the following resources:

Arch Books is a popular children's Bible story series. Select titles are available on audio or video.

Hear Me Read Series (1992) are Bible-based storybooks with controlled vocabulary. Each book shares a complete Bible story using a list of 25 (or fewer) vocabulary words. Available in Level 1 and Level 2. These books are an excellent supplement to any Bible study curriculum for younger children. They also are great for first and second grade students with learning disabilities.

Phonetic Bible Stories (1999) is a series using the phonics reading method and religious themes to create fun books that teach Bible stories and reinforce reading skills.

For more resource information or to order, visit the Concordia Publishing House at www.cph.org or call 800-325-3040.

› ***Learning Styles*** (1995) by Marlene LeFever introduces the four ways people learn and how to identify them. It explores these styles in different Christian learning environments such as in the classroom, during worship and at home. It includes effective activities and methods that can be used with learners of all ages from elementary through adult. It is a "must-have" resource for all church and school libraries. Consider also the companion book to this title, *Creative Teaching Methods* by Marlene LeFever, which provides more teaching ideas. These are available as a set from Cook Communications Ministries at www.cookministries.com or 800-323-7543.

› ***The Divine Drama*** consists of two parts. Part 1 "The Biblical Narrative," leads people through the biblical narrative and themes from creation to Christ. Part 2, "Our Narrative," studies basic, Christian doctrines such as: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, sing and grace, eschatology, worship, the church, prayer, stewardship, etc. All lessons use illustrative symbols. It can be used as a two-track course for confirmation students and their parents. It is a great series for older students and adults who are non-readers. *The Divine Drama* is available through Crossways International at www.crossways.org or 800-257-7308. Check the website for more resources and information on workshops. Video courses of many of their titles are also available.

› **Friendship Ministries** offers the following resources:

Bible studies (youth and adult) provide religious instruction for people with mental impairments to prepare them for meaningful participation in church life. Curriculum is divided into a three-year series as follows: year 1, "God, Our Father"; year 2, "Jesus, Our Savior"; and year 3, "Holy Spirit, Our Helper" (30 lessons per year). Components include: group leader kit, group leader guide, teacher manual and student resources. Instructional materials include videos, posters, flannelgraph materials, overhead transparencies and song CDs.

Living God's Way (1994) is a follow-up to *Friendship Bible Studies*. This course for higher functioning adults who have mental impairments. It offers practical guidance on living a Christian life. Components include leader guide and student magazines.

The life studies series include five short courses for adults with mental impairments. The courses deal with spiritual growth, relationships and service. Each includes a leader guide and a student magazine. Current mini-course titles are: "We All Have Gifts" (2000), "Growing Closer to God" (1995), "When People Die" (1995) and "Helping Each Other" (1996).

Expressing Faith in Jesus: Church Membership for People with Mental Impairments (1995) offers practical suggestions for pastors and church leaders to help people with mental impairments profess their faith.

Time With God is a devotional tape with words and music, which was developed for students with developmental disabilities. It's very upbeat with many familiar hymns.

For more product information, visit www.friendship.org or call 888-866-8966.

› **Hands-On Bible Curriculum** (2001), produced by Group Publishing, uses everyday objects to teach about God and His kingdom, just as Jesus did. The curriculum uses whimsical gizmos and fun, creative activities to hold children's attention and teach them important biblical truths. This curriculum would be appropriate for children of any age attending Sunday school. While this material was not developed specifically for students with special needs, it is appropriate for students of all abilities. For more Group Publishing resources, visit www.grouppublishing.com or call 800-447-1070.

› **Jesus Cares Ministries**, a ministry of Lutheran Home Association in Belle Plaine, Minn., offers the following resources:

Bible Studies for the Developmentally Disabled (2001) is offered by the Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Lay Ministry, which conducts weekly Bible studies for the developmentally disabled and elderly living in health care centers or rehabilitation centers.

Dear Christian Friend (2004) is an easy-to-use Bible history curriculum that clearly presents God's plan of salvation for children and adults who have developmental disabilities. The curriculum covers 15 Old Testament and 22 New Testament lessons. Lesson leaflets contain bright color illustrations, more than 120 custom rebus subjects and beautifully written stories. It is a high quality resource published in partnership with Northwestern Publishing.

Easy Bible Story Projects includes simple art projects to correspond with *Bible Studies for the Developmentally Disabled*.

Joy in Jesus' Love (2001) is a foundation series for people with very limited vocabulary and understanding. It could be used with any age of people who are severely or profoundly disabled or with young children who have a limited vocabulary.

Our Living Hope (1991) shares curriculum for teaching developmentally disabled children of God. Each volume is a 10-lesson study: Cycle 1, "In Remembrance of Me"/Christian Faith; Cycle 2, "Seeking His Kingdom"/Christian Life; Cycle 3, "One Body With Many Members"/Christian Church.

To learn more or to order any of these resources visit Jesus Cares Ministries at www.jcministries.org.

› **Life Way Christian Resources** offers the following resources:

Access, special education Bible study learner guides and teacher guides, are quarterly/dated publications that illustrate God's love and introduce Bible concepts. The format is large and colorful, intended for use with students with mental disabilities. Also available are teaching pictures and a cassette recording of songs.

Access, special education teacher's packet, is a resource to help teachers who lead Sunday school classes for adults, youth or children with mental disabilities. Note: Call the publisher to receive a free sample packet.

VBS materials include age-appropriate Bible study activities to help communicate the love of God to those with special needs and mental disabilities. Includes reproducible pages for students' study leaflets as well as all kinds of planning and administrative suggestions. It could also be used in a camp or retreat setting.

For more information contact Life Way Christian Resources at www.lifeway.com or 800-458-2772.

› **Mephibosheth Ministry** produces a variety of curriculum materials for students with developmental disabilities. Materials cover the areas of evangelism, Christian growth, values, prayer and inspiration. The booklets are short and could also be used in conjunction with other materials. Contact this ministry at 719-633-4083 for more information about various materials.

› **Nest Entertainment** provides a wide variety of animated Bible stories on video. All videos come with an activity book and are available in closed caption. Nest Entertainment is part of the Direct Sales Association. To find out where videos are available in your area visit www.nestentertainment.com or call 800-632-0030. Some LCMS district offices have these videos to borrow.

› **The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Mental Retardation: A Comprehensive Developmental Curriculum** (1996) is a comprehensive curriculum with 260 lesson plans, prayer services, a catechist formation handbook and parent handbook. It was developed for students between the ages of 5-18 with mild-to-moderate developmental disabilities. It can be used in an inclusive setting as a support or a "pull-out" program or in the home. This curriculum is written in a developmental mode so that one section or one lesson builds on the previous section or lesson. For more information contact SilverBurdeettGinn Religion at 800-552- 2259.

› **The New International Readers Version Bible** from Zondervan is available in several versions of this lower reading level Bible. It offers children's study Bibles as well as gift Bibles. For more information visit its catalog or website at www.zondervanchurchsource.com for all the different versions of this Bible offered.