

Choosing a Curriculum

With so many curriculums available, it can be hard to decide which is best for your church. The following is a list of areas that may be helpful to consider when selecting a children's ministry curriculum for your group.

Vision & Values

- Vision:** Does the curriculum fit with the vision of your church?
- Values:** Does the curriculum enable leaders to operate within the values of the church?

Theology

- Beliefs:** Does it teach content which is in alignment with your church's theological beliefs?
- Childhood:** Does it deliver lessons which are in alignment with your church's theology of childhood?
- Accuracy:** Has the content been made age-appropriate, while still maintaining theological accuracy?
- Grace:** Does it point to God's grace, Jesus' salvation and the Holy Spirit's power, or is it works based?

Learning & Growth

- Learning Styles:** Does it match your kids learning styles - listening, discussion, or hands on activities?
- Application:** Is there an opportunity for kids to open the bible for themselves, and apply it to their lives?
- Transformation:** Is learning purely intellectual, or do the lessons aim for heart transformation?

Scope & Sequence

- Approach:** Do the lessons progress chronologically through the Bible? Or are they topic-based?
- Length:** How long will the curriculum last? Is material for a term only, or for birth through high school?
- Repetition:** Are the lessons repetitive, or are kids engaging with new stories and content?

Age-appropriate

- Child Development:** Is it appropriate for the developmental stages of your group?
- Faith Development:** Is it appropriate for the various faith development stages of your group?
- Transition:** Does it provide good transition between age groups?

Family Engagement

- Engagement:** Does it help parents engage with and take interest in their children's learning?
- Responsibility:** Does it support parents in taking responsibility for their child's spiritual development?

Practicalities

- Size:** Does it work with the number of children you have?
- Format:** Is it designed for big groups, small groups or a combination?
- Budget:** Does it fit within your allocated budget?
- Resources:** Do you have the supplies and equipment available to make it work?
- Volunteers:** Does the program require additional leaders, and do you have sufficient volunteers?
- Preparation:** Is the amount of preparation required practical for your volunteers?
- Adaptation:** Can it be adapted to meet the opportunities or limitations of your context?