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Updated by Lauren Wilson

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Power and Light ^{for} Kids

Lectionary Year B

This Power & Light for Kids Lectionary Year B is a full-year resource based on the lectionary-based curriculum series produced by Community of Christ from 1998 through 2006. It is scripture based, worship connected, multiaged for flexibility, and educationally sound. It uses proven teaching techniques including authentic learning, multiple intelligence theory, Godly Play™, and other best practices. In addition, it affirms the spirituality inherent in all children and offers ways to invite that spirituality to express itself.

The lectionary is a system of learning and living God's word by studying specific scriptures each Sunday. Lectionary Year B is based on the book of Mark with stories of Jesus' birth, ministry, and death; his teachings, parables, and acts of ministry. This book will give children a good understanding of the life of Christ.

Lessons in this book are titled by lectionary date. They correspond to Sundays in 2008/2009. Lessons begin with the first Sunday of Advent and end with the last day of the lectionary year in November. To learn more about the lectionary, see page 110. A complete listing of Year B scriptures from the Revised Common Lectionary and the Community of Christ is on pages 111–112.

Lessons for this book are designed with two pages: an instructor's page of suggested activities to teach the scripture lesson, and a "KidsPage" which may be used as a class activity or a take-home page for children. We also recommend that you use a classroom Bible to teach the scripture stories and children own their own Bible. (See recommendations on page 3 and information under Resources on page 112.)

We hope this *Power and Light for Kids*, Lectionary Year B, meets the needs of you and your children and you will continue to seek out all good books, music, and ideas for the children within your ministry.

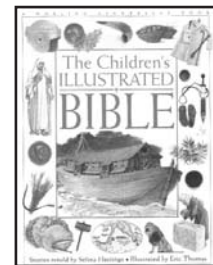
A Few Thoughts on Children and Spirituality

Children race into your congregation exhilarated, ready to see their friends and participate in activities. They are of all ages, backgrounds, strengths, and struggles—proving to be a challenge and joy. While it may be daunting to think of being their modeler and teacher, the latest research affirms what you already know to be true about children, and is probably what led you into your ministry with them. Here is what the researchers are saying:



- Children reveal spiritual insights and a deep desire for God as young as age two. As adults, we are called to recognize the spirituality already present in children and talk with them about what they have already experienced and know. Rebecca Nye, developmental psychologist and theologian, calls us to give “exquisite attention to the experience of the child.”¹ By doing so, not only do we affirm the relationship and experience children already have with God, but we may learn something new about the God who is continually self-revealing and relational with us.
- Children learn by wondering and exploring, and so do we. Theologian and journalist Krista Trippet writes, “Faith is as much about questioning as it is about certainties.”² Welcome children’s questions, and don’t feel compelled to fill in the answers. The wondering and exploring that is spiritual formation will be their lifelong process.
- Children grow through relationships with people of all ages, so be on the faith journey *with* children. Christian educators Eibner and Walker write, “[Ministry with children] is an opportunity less to instruct than to nurture a shared learning opportunity in which relationships can grow and new ways of exploring faith can be opened. Children’s natural inclination to explore, question, and celebrate their faith is a great and energizing contribution to any adult’s faith development.”³
- Children learn spirituality through every aspect of their development. As Rebecca Nye found in her research, “...we had to take the child as a whole to get a feel for her spiritual life, which flies like a bird through their intellectual life and their emotional life and their social life and their cultural life and their moral life. It is about their ‘being a child,’ as of course someone else called people to notice and learn two millennia ago (Matthew 18:2–5).”⁴

So, relax and enjoy being on the spiritual journey with children. Remember that your strongest ministry is your love for and belief in children. But you already know how to do that.



Bible Resources:

The Children's Illustrated Bible is for classroom use.

A Child's Bible, NRSV is recommended for each child to use.

¹ Rebecca Nye, “Christian Perspectives on Children’s Spirituality: Social Science Contributions?” *Children’s Spirituality: Christian Perspectives, Research, and Applications*, edited by Donald Ratcliff (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2004), 93.

² Krista Trippet, *Speaking of Faith* (New York City, NY: Viking Penguin, 2007), 43.

³ Eibner, Janet Marshall and Susan Graham Walker, *God, Kids, & Us: The Growing Edge of Ministry with Children and the People Who Care for Them* (Etobicoke, Ontario: United Church Publishing House, 1996), 12.

⁴ Nye, 94.

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