

YouthGuide

A guide to help your congregation nurture spiritual growth in high school youth

What is your congregation's plan to disciple high school youth?

Have you taken time to think through what faith themes you want your youth to explore during their critical teen years? Will they be exposed to the full range of the biblical story?

As a youth pastor, sponsor, or Sunday school teacher, don't leave your curriculum choices to chance. It's easy to plan on the basis of which curriculum looks the most exciting, or to choose topics a few people consider hot at the moment. But a more intentional plan will ensure a solid path of discovery that invites your youth to become committed followers of Jesus.

The purpose of this guide is to help you look at the big picture as you plan learning activities, whether in Sunday school or in other settings.

The first two charts inside will help you plan ahead so youth get a comprehensive grounding in Bible, Anabaptist/Mennonite theology and history, and habits of Christian living. A third chart allows you to keep track of studies for each class of youth in your congregation.

Faith formation during the high school years happens at church in a variety of settings, including mentoring, baptism classes, and congregational worship. *YouthGuide* focuses on the two primary settings where instruction is most regular and ongoing, namely Sunday school and youth group.

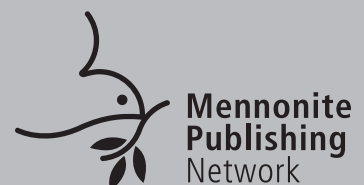
The first two charts inside correspond to these two learning environments. Use them flexibly, according to your group's structure and meeting times. They cover a wide range of Scripture texts, introducing youth to most of the Bible, and recommend Mennonite Church resources. They encourage integration of youth ministries into the congregation; allow flexibility to include timely or new topics; and take into account the social, cognitive, and spiritual development of youth.

YouthGuide integrates four main categories of study during the high school years:

1. Bible study and theology from an Anabaptist/Mennonite perspective. The first chart is based on the four-year plan used in *Search*, a year-round curriculum for youth.
2. Christian practices, such as the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible reading, and worship.
3. Mennonite Church history, theology, and practice.
4. Contemporary or personal issues such as acquaintance rape, depression, pandemic, sexuality, relationships, peace, politics, justice, stewardship, and service and witness.

For an electronic version of *YouthGuide*, go to www.mpn.net.

Permission is granted to photocopy *YouthGuide* freely.



Sunday School: Go Through the Bible in Four Years

This chart shows the four-year cycle that *Search* follows for high school youth. For a full listing of Bible texts for youth go to www.gatherround.org.

Year	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
2010-11	God and the First Families: Stories from Genesis	Meet Jesus, God's Servant: Stories from Luke	Sharing the Message of Jesus: Stories from Luke and Acts	Parables and Sayings of Jesus
2011-12	God and Moses: Stories from Exodus	Meet Jesus, our Teacher: Stories from Matthew	Living the Gospel: Stories from Matthew and Acts	Seek Peace, and Pursue It
2012-13	Judges, Prophets, and Kings	Meet Jesus, our Leader: Stories from Mark	Walking with Jesus: Stories from Mark and Acts	God's Good Creation
2013-14	God's People: Scattered and Gathered	Meet Jesus, the Messiah: Stories from John	Living in the Light: Stories from John	Stories of God's People

Other recommended Bible studies on issues youth face from *Generation Why Bible Studies*:

Relatively Loving: Family Dynamics in the Bible

How to Be a True Friend

Living Beyond our Means: The Extravagance of Biblical Stewardship

Deal With It: The Bible on Death and Dying

The Place Just Right: Biblical Teachings on Simplicity

Reconcilable Differences: Biblical Insights for Repairing Relationships

Singing in the Reign: Joy and Celebration in the Bible

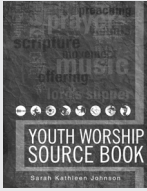


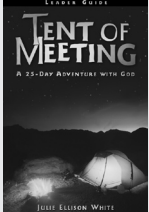

A Speck in the Universe: The Bible on Self-esteem and Peer Pressure

Go for Broke: Using the Gifts God Gave You

For more information or to order any of these titles, go to www.mpn.net.

Youth Group: Explore Topics/Themes

This chart lists recommended resources that complement the *Search* Bible curriculum. You can interchange or replace units to suit the needs of your youth group. For example, you may wish to plan a faith exploration class one quarter each year. For more information on each title, go to www.mpn.net.

Year	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
One	 <p><i>Youth Worship Source Book</i>, Sarah Kathleen Johnson</p>	<p><i>Sacred Search: Encountering God During Advent</i>, Carol Duerksen</p> <p><i>Beyond our Fears: Following Jesus in Times of Crisis</i></p>	<p><i>Body and Soul: Healthy Sexuality and the People of God</i></p> <p><i>Sexuality: God's Gift</i>, Anne Krabill Hershberger</p>	<p>Pre-convention Bible study</p> <p><i>Jesus Matters</i>, James Krabill and David W. Shenk</p>
Two	<p><i>Adventures with the Anabaptists</i>, Jeanne Greiser and Carol Duerksen</p> <p><i>Stories: How Mennonites Came to Be</i>, John D. Roth</p>	<p><i>Practices: Mennonite Worship and Witness</i>, John D. Roth</p> <p><i>Beliefs: Mennonite Faith and Practice</i>, John D. Roth</p>	<p><i>Faith for the Journey: Youth Explore the Confession of Faith</i>, Ann Weber Becker</p> <p><i>Via: Exploring the Way of Christ</i></p>	 <p><i>Merge</i>, Krista Dutt</p>
Three	<p><i>Decide for Peace: A Guide for Personal Bible Study and Reflection on Conscientious Objection</i>, Eddy Hall</p> <p><i>Peace: Just Live It!</i></p>	<p><i>Money Matters for Youth: Integrating Faith and Finances</i>, MMA/Everence</p> <p><i>The Mennonite Handbook</i></p>	 <p><i>Sacred Search: Encountering God during Lent</i>, Angela Reed</p>	<p>Pre-convention Bible study</p> <p><i>Close to Home Topics</i> (download study guides): Eating Disorders, Pornography, Depression, Gambling, Alcoholism, Extreme Anxiety, Drug Addiction, Acquaintance Rape, Bullying, Bipolar Disorder, Internet Addiction</p>
Four	<p><i>How to Read the Bible: Building Skills for Bible Study; How to Understand the Bible</i>, David Ewert</p> <p><i>Read the Book: A Bible Reading Record Chart</i></p>	 <p><i>Tent of Meeting: A 25-Day Adventure with God</i>, Julie Ellison White</p>	 <p><i>God's Story, Our Story: Exploring Christian Faith & Life</i>, Michele Hershberger</p>	<p><i>Thermostat</i> (sessions on war, peace, and Christian conscience), MCC</p> <p><i>Let's Talk</i>, Barry Bartel</p>

Contemporary Issues

Check out these websites for resources on the issue you choose to study:

Close to Home pamphlet series: mental health, abuse, addictions—mpn.net/closetohome

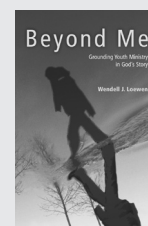
Mennonite Publishing Network: further topics—www.mpn.net

Third Way Media: Beyond the News (current events) and Ted and Lee or Ted & Company DVDs—www.thirdwaymedia.org

Everence: stewardship resources—www.mma-online.org

Mennonite Central Committee: peace, development, global issues—www.mcc.org

TIP



Resource book for youth pastors and leaders:

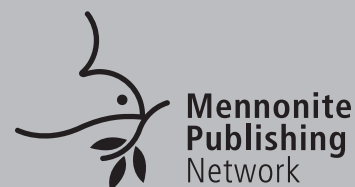
Beyond Me: Grounding Youth Ministry in God's Story, Wendell Loewen (Faith & Life Resources, 2008)

Our Curriculum Planner

Use this chart to record what resources are being used in Sunday school and youth group.

Youth class _____

Year	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer
One Sunday school Youth group	-----	-----	-----	-----
Two Sunday school Youth group	-----	-----	-----	-----
Three Sunday school Youth group	-----	-----	-----	-----
Four Sunday school Youth group	-----	-----	-----	-----



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