

Curriculum Overview for Adult Formation

Curriculum	Publisher (Denomination)	Foundation Statement	Content & Articulation	Teacher support	Format	Ages	Cost / Usability
<i>The Adult Journey</i>	LeaderResources (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/adultjourney	Adapted from the J2A program for adults, it addresses two questions: “How does my story resonate with the Gospel story?” and “How can I live the Gospel story in my life?”	25 one-hour sessions or ten 2 ½ hour session. Structured around storytelling and six basic adulthood skills; <i>lectio divina</i> model for Bible study	Leader’s Guide includes lesson plans with background material and additional resource suggestions	Leader’s Guide and Participant’s Book	Adult	\$99.95 per congregation (license) <i>Downloadable</i> <i>UNDATED</i>
<i>Alpha</i>	Nicky Gumbel (independent) www.alphana.org	Explore the validity and relevance of the Christian faith to your life today.	Ten-week course in the basics of Christianity for people of all different backgrounds.	Handbooks and guides for organizing and running the program	3 hour session centered around a meal, presentation, video and small group discussion	Adult (additional modules for youth, prisons)	79¢ Booklets \$3.99 Manuals Beginning Kits with DVDs \$499 <i>UNDATED</i>
<i>Bible-in-Life</i>	David C. Cook (independent) www.cookministries.com/curriculum/daavidccook/	Evangelical guidance to present basic Bible truths without being distracted by doctrines over which Bible-believing Christians may disagree. Having a personal relationship with Christ; a desire to witness, minister and serve	Scope & Sequence (small Anglican supplement “The Lamp Lighter” in center of teacher’s guide) 100% New Testament core lessons (NIV/KJV)	Teacher preparation for each lesson – questions (with answers) provided; “easy-to-teach & easy-to-prepare”	Relies on student booklets / visually oriented	Toddler/2 – Adult	Per quarter: \$6.99 Teacher \$14.99 Aids \$3.99 Craft book \$3.99 Take home \$3.50 Bible Discoveries DATED
<i>Bible Workbench</i>	The Educational Center (Episcopal) www.bibleworkbench.com	Bible-centered resource designed to help participants understand the meaning of their own experience rather than simply offering facts and opinions from a teacher.	A lectionary Bible study that involves exploration of text, commentary, readings from literature, questions and journaling exercises.	Self-directed for individual or group use	“Workbook” style (ready for notebook), with experiential options, including art responses	Adult	By subscription: \$125 full year \$75 half year \$20 single issue \$85 for new subscribers DATED
<i>Companions in Christ (Foundational course) Companerismo en Cristo</i>	Upper Room Ministries (Methodist) www.upperroom.org/companions/	Exploring classic spiritual practices and inviting participants to develop daily patterns that open their lives to a deepening relationship with God & one another.	28-week foundational course (in 5-6 week segments) that includes daily reading and exercises.	Leader guides group process; offers worship ideas and leadership tools as well as support for each session.	Small group model (home or church) 2 hours weekly; experiential & reflective process	Adult	\$17 Leader’s \$20 Participant or \$9 Journal

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<i>Companions in Christ: Exploring the Way</i>	Upper Room Ministries (Methodist) www.upperroom.org/companions/	A basic introduction to Christian spirituality with a taste of one key spiritual practice each week	6-week introduction to prayer practices (lectio divina, breath prayer, holy listening, daily examen, journaling)	Leader teaches, guides process	Class or small group model; 1 hour weekly	Adult	\$12 Leader's Guide \$10 Participant's Book
<i>Companions in Christ: additional series</i>	Upper Room Ministries (Methodist) www.upperroom.org/companions/	Additional series: The Way of Blessedness; Forgiveness; Prayer; Grace	6 – 9 week series on specific topics for those who have experienced the foundational course	Leader guides group process	Small group process	Adult	\$8 Leader's Guide \$12 Participant's Book
<i>Disciple</i>	Cokesbury (United Methodist Church) www.cokesbury.com/disciple	To develop strong Christian leaders in local churches through the in-depth study of Scripture; to be strengthened in their faith and guided into service and ministry.	During the course of 34 weeks, groups will move through the biblical story from Creation to the New Jerusalem (chronological)	This study requires reading large portions of Scripture each week with careful study and preparation.	Video and manuals	Adult (also Youth edition)	\$275 Planning kit with DVD \$30 study manual REUSABLE
<i>Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC)</i>	Washington National Cathedral (Episcopal) www.cathedral.org/cathedral/programs/docc.shtml	Challenges one to identify and practice daily skills in ministry as part of the process of Christian formation as a life-long process.	18-24 sessions; Learn the basics of faith, have an opportunity to deepen one's spiritual life, and enhance skills	Presenters (leaders) attend training where all materials are given	A presentation by leaders followed by small groups discussion and its application to their lives	Adult	\$100 licensing fee \$325 per leader, inc. training & materials \$50 individual fee REUSABLE
<i>The Discovery Series: A Christian Journey</i>	Episcopal Diocese of Texas (Episcopal) www.epicenter.org/edot/Discovery_Series	Designed to help every Christian – new or lifelong, young or old – discover their own path to a life in Christ	Five courses provide comprehensive training for Baptism, confirmation, spiritual gifts assessment, discipleship and worship	Facilitator's Guide and video. No particular training is needed for someone to facilitate the group except preparation for each class.	Each course has 2-4 video segments (about 15 min.), each intended to be followed by group work (about 45 min.)	Confirmation Adult	\$379 Guide + DVD or VHS The participant pages are also available online for purchasers. UNDATED
<i>Education for Ministry (EfM)</i>	University of the South, Sewanee (Episcopal) www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm	Every baptized person is called to ministry. EfM provides people with the education to carry out that ministry; discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.	Covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology.	Mentor training available and necessary to register a group of 6-12 students	Students meet regularly, usually once a week, in seminars with comprehensive materials	Adult	Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program. \$340 per person, per year UNDATED

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<i>Emmaus (Episcopal version – US)</i>	Morehouse Publishing (Episcopal) www.morehousepublishing.org	A multi-phase study program that helps churches grow by fostering Christian formation and discipleship in the congregation.	Three stages to serve Christians who are at different points in their faith journey: 1. Contact 2. Nurture – for new Christians or Confirmation class 3. Growth – short courses (Christian lifestyle, growing as a Christian, knowing God,	Leader’s guides	1. Introduction 2. 15 week prep course for Baptism or Confirmation 3. Two 5-week courses	Confirmation Young Adults Adult Newcomers	\$9.50 - \$29.95 Leader’s Guides UNDATED
<i>Emmaus: The Way of Faith (Church of England version)</i>	Church House Publishing www.chpublishing.co.uk/category.asp?id=22601	Designed to welcome people into the Christian faith and life of the Church; aims to help the individual encounter Jesus and to involve the whole Church in evangelism, the nurture of new believers and ongoing Christian discipleship.		Leader’s guides / CD-ROM			\$43 each book through Church Publishing (USA)
<i>Experiencing the Bible Again for the First Time</i>	Wood Lake Books www.woodlakebooks.com	When we call people together in small groups to participate in the experiential learning processes of this curriculum, we are in effect inviting them to come into the kind of learning community that Jesus gathered around him.	10 small group sessions of adult theological re-education curriculum inspired by Marcus Borg.	160 page leader’s guide, 12 participant handbooks, posters, source book, DVD of video clips with Marcus Borg	Designed for group use is experiential in methodology, valuing the wisdom of each person and the integrity of their experience of the Sacred.	Adult	\$175

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<i>FaithWeaver</i>	Group Publishing (independent) www.faithweaver.com	Concentrates on authentic learning education, and every activity has a purpose in encouraging faith growth, from infants to adults.	Scope & Sequence quarterly with scripture and another key bible verse 25% OT 75% Gospel	Teacher Guides include background and dialogue script for speaking to class	Bible memory verses, drama, arts & crafts, stories – implies families study together at home	Toddlers – Adult	Quarterly: \$9.99 Teacher \$4.79 Student \$37.99 Resource \$17.99 CD DATED
<i>Journey in Faith</i>	LeaderResources (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/journeyinfaith	Personal faith formation in a small group setting that transforms people and their congregations. Supports and enhances baptismal ministry of the whole people of God.	Multi-year, multi-faceted program following “paths” (6 units each with 6 sessions each) OT, NT, Saints, History	Rotation of leadership roles; coached by mentors; training available	Weekly small group meetings	Adult	ASA: \$200-\$1,000 UNDATED
<i>Kerygma</i>	The Kerygma Program (independent / with ecumenical partnerships) www.kerygma.com	Seeks to support congregations in their reading and hearing “The Word” from back then to us here and now.	Courses on books of the Bible or themes (short and long term); numerous topics (OT, NT, Lent, Spirituality, Music, etc.)	Leader’s Guide is comprehensive for leading a course and also comes on CD for parish personalizing lesson planning	Traditional adult setting; interactive	Adult	\$13.00-\$32.00 Resource Book \$15.00-\$35.00 Leader’s Guide UNDATED
<i>KLESIS Course</i>	www.conect-course.org	Participants go from outsiders wondering how they connect with the church to people covenanting together to discern and act on their calling, both individually and in community.	Three-fold structure: Connect? Community & Eucharist (6 weeks) Commit? Baptismal Covenant (3 month) Covenant! Exploration of gifts and call in community (6 month)		Weekly gatherings of 2 hours including a meal	Adult	Connect? FREE Downloadable Commit? Covenant!
<i>Lesson Plans for Small Congregation</i>	Episcopal Church (Episcopal) www.ecusa.anglican.org/50534_ENG-HTML.htm	Lessons are a guide to centering Christian education in the church & home around the Biblical story	Lectionary Based, lessons usually follow Gospel NRSV	Simple plans with biblical background, list of questions and activity	Usually one activity per lesson with supplemental suggestions	Younger & Older Elementary; Adult Intergenerational	FREE Downloadable DATED

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<i>LifeCycles</i>	LeaderResources (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/lifecycles	To empower all members to realize their God-given gifts and so become ever more active, articulate apostles at work in God's world, and to transform "congregations gathered around the clergy" into vital, ministering communities.	Scope & Sequence of four cycles with six units of six session each; Scripture / spiritual practices / theology / history / ethics	Leaders are encouragers and hosts, not instructors; community building; some preparation needed	Developed in small congregations with a mutual ministry model; for groups of 6-12 in a home-like setting	Adult	ASA: \$200- \$1,000 Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Living the Good News</i>	Morehouse Education Resources (Episcopal) www.morehouseeducation.com/ep_lec_tbased.htm	Brings people together to discover and share God's word through learning, worship & everyday life	Lectionary based 30% Old Testament 70% New Testament NRSV	Teacher Guide with scriptural background; Clear lesson plan; take-home papers	Variety of learning styles and activities; Enhanced CD has handouts, music, art, on-line ideas	Nursery - Adult	3 seasons: \$19.95 Leader \$2.95 Child \$10.95 Posters \$14.95 Enhanced CD DATED
<i>Living the Questions 2</i>	Self published from several Methodist pastors www.livingthequestions.com	A program to help people wrestle with basic questions often avoided by the Christianity they grew up with.	Comprised of 21 sessions, <i>LtQ2</i> may be offered in sequence or as three independent flights of seven units each: Invitation to Journey, Reclaiming the World and Call to Covenant.	Downloadable leader/participant guides with weekly readings/discussion questions. 20-minute video segments.	Each session may be conducted in one hour or expanded to include a meal and personal sharing. DVD format.	Adult	\$295 REUSABLE
<i>The New Church's Teaching Series</i>	Cowley (now Rowman & Littlefield) (Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/newchurchsteaching	A series of independent books written by noted theologians on topics such as prayer, church history, mission, worship and social witness.	For book studies on a topic	Companion book – "A Guide to the New Church's Teaching series" offers book overviews and discussion questions	Book	Adult	\$10.16-11.86 per book \$8.46 Guide REUSABLE

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<i>Practically Christian</i>	OACES (Independent – Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/practicallychristian	A Guide to Practical Christian Prayer, Action, and Reflection. Combines practice in combining classical prayer forms with action on the Episcopal baptismal vows.	Links the Episcopal Church's five baptismal vows with six classical prayer forms of Adoration, Penitence, Praise, Intercession, Petition, and Thanksgiving	All inclusive in program materials with leader choice	36 session of 1 ½ hours each (sequential) On CD to print out on one's own	Adult	\$99.95 per congregation UNDATED
<i>Seasons of the Spirit</i>	Logos Productions, Inc. (ecumenical) www.spiritseasons.com	Empower all ages to be transformed in Christ as they explore the Bible, worship, service and ministry	Lectionary & ecumenical using the Revised Common Lectionary	Complete lesson plans and extensive website support and chat-rooms	Multi-media, drama, music, stories, art, outreach & mission	All ages: Preschool - Adult	Annually: \$152 per level \$310 multi-age Web-based DATED
<i>The Seekers</i>	OACES (Independent – Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/theseekers	To call young people into adulthood by discovery, wonder and reflection on life in light of our Christian tradition	2 years (25 sessions each) of programming focused around four units: Faith, Life, Self and Values	25 sessions per year; complete lesson plan outlines with facilitator background	Discussion and activities	Young Adults, ages 18-23.	\$79.95 per congregation Downloadable UNDATED
<i>Synthesis CE</i>	Sedgewick Publishing Co. (Independent – Episcopal) www.synthesispub.com	A Lectionary study guide in the Episcopal tradition. Inspiring, weekly Bible lessons that follow the Lectionary, and are written by Episcopalians for Episcopalians, are a wonderful resource for your whole church.	Lectionary by subscription (52 sessions), references to Book of Common Prayer	2 page handout with scripture, interpretation and implications (reflection questions)	Small group study or individual use	Adults	\$110 annual subscription (52 issues) with permission to duplicate for individuals DATED
<i>The Thoughtful Christian</i>	Westminster John Knox Press (Presbyterian) www.thoughtfulchristian.com	Bible study should be timely. It should stimulate our thoughts about Christian values and beliefs while wrestling with questions that inform the way we live out our faith in everyday life.	Web-based resource center comprised of various studies in units of 1-4 sessions on timely topics as well as denominational subjects from a variety of traditions	Each session is designed for 45-60 minutes with a 3-4-page Participant Handout and a 2-5 page Leader's Guide with lesson plans & resources.	Individual or group study	Youth and Adult	Downloadable as PDF files that can be duplicated Range from \$5 - \$18 per unit; discounts for subscribers

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<i>Transforming Literature of the Bible (TLB)</i>	Independent (Episcopal) www.cathedral.org/cathedral/programs/tlb.shtml	“Plow deep into the meaning of the great literature of the Bible by listening to God speak through the stories that have shaped our culture and our church.”	2 semesters: 17 sessions explore Hebrew Scripture; 19 Christian Testament Materials include full commentary for each session (NRSV)	Seminar leaders receive 9 hours of training Participants spend 2-4 hours of study in preparation for each session	Seminars of 12 or fewer people	Adult	\$150 per person includes all materials UNDATED
<i>Venture</i>	OACES (Independent – Episcopal) www.leaderresources.org/ventureseries	Exploring the Great Ideas and Images of the Christian Faith. Group study in four subjects: Church History, Liturgies, Holy Scripture and Theology	4 Series of 6 sessions: Christian beginnings; Reformation; Prophetic Voices of Freedom; One God, Many Faiths / uses other texts for reading	Facilitator's Guide with meeting outlines and discussion questions	Sunday Forum or Adult class	Adult	\$29.95 per congregation Facilitator's & Study Guides Downloadable UNDATED
<i>via media (also: via media: values and expanded version)</i>	Every Voice Network (Episcopal) www.everyvoice.net/	“A place to ask 21st Century questions” To proclaim the Good News of God in Christ Jesus and to present The Episcopal Church in a contemporary context through video-enhanced curricula	8, 16 or 24 week “journeys of study, prayer and action” encountering the basic principles of Christianity through the Anglican approach of Scripture, traditions and reason.	Training available through Every Voice Network for implementation and leader training, although not necessary	Small group conversation around a video segment that models theological reflection, inc. worship – all on CD	Adult	\$495.00 basic \$695.00 expanded \$350.00 values UNDATED
<i>The Best of Whole People of God Online</i>	Wood Lake Publishing www.wholepeopleofgod.com	A simple, easy-to-use curriculum for your entire Christian Education family.	Lectionary based	Downloadable plans and Weekly Tip Newsletter	Materials for classrooms, worship, home	All ages	\$120 and up Annual subscription (Sept-August) on church size