



Syllabus for *Light* 2009

Scripture Union has created this Bible-based syllabus with the help of Bible scholars, education experts, and children's and youth leaders.

Syllabus and cycle

The *Light* syllabus is on a rolling cycle. If group members keep on learning with *Light* for three years, they will gain a good grasp of all the key events and teachings of the Bible. This is a syllabus outline for the part of the cycle that *Light* will be following in 2009.

You can learn more about the whole syllabus at www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light.

Aim of the syllabus

Light is very clearly Bible-focused. It enables children, young people and adults to develop a personal relationship with Christ as well as helping them to understand the Bible and the Christian faith, and to live for God as light in a dark world.

It also addresses contemporary issues from a strong biblical perspective so young people can see the Bible's relevance in today's world. It also enables churches of all denominations and traditions to integrate the programme with teaching of their own emphases, practices, history and mission.

Selection of Bible passages

The Bible passages offer a balanced view of who God is, what he is like, what he has done, is doing and will do. Everyone will be able to follow the story of salvation that runs through the Bible with its focus clearly on Jesus.

At the beginning of each cycle *Light* begins with Genesis and starts going through the Old Testament. The New Testament, running concurrently, follows the church year, with Advent, Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost sessions coming at the appropriate times. Between Pentecost and October there are stories about the young church, and various gospel series are interspersed throughout the year. Each quarter has a balance of Old and New Testament passages.

Each year *Light* offers the *All-Age Service Annual* which includes all-age services for Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Good Friday. Even though these events are not celebrated at the same time around the world, churches can use the services whenever appropriate.

Series

Each series lasts between four and five weeks, and will usually start on the first Sunday of the month.

Each series explores a big theme about God, so leaders are able to drop some sessions from a series if they need to, and group members will still grasp the Bible's message. Scripture Union also recognises that attendance at groups or services may be sporadic, so this approach also helps with this kind of situation.

Syllabus for different age groups

Splash! and *Xstream* follow the core *Light* syllabus. Children aged 5 and under usually follow the same syllabus, but diverge from it occasionally to use a Bible passage more appropriate to the age group or when they need to spend more time on a particular subject, such as Christmas.

The syllabus for *theGRID* (11 to 14s) relates to the core *Light* syllabus, but has a strong link with young people's issues.

To help you plan ahead, this detailed syllabus shows the similarities and variations between the age groups.

Light for the Lectionary

Light for the Lectionary also provides all-age worship material for churches using the *Revised Common* (or *Common Worship*) Lectionary. This is a quarterly publication covering Sunday services and other special days.

Bible versions

Bubbles, *Splash!*, *Xstream* and *theGRID* work with any Bible version. However, the writers have in mind the Contemporary English Version (CEV) and Good News Bible (GNB) as they write for *Bubbles*, *Splash!* and *Xstream*, the New Century Version (Youth Bible) for *theGRID*, and Today's New International Version (TNIV) for the *All-Age Service Annual*. *Bubbles* recommends using *The Big Bible Storybook* (published by SU) which has been created especially for use with *Bubbles*.

For further copies of this syllabus, contact us at:

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Bubbles (5s and under)

January–March 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 4	Jesus starts work As a new year begins, we can have the expectation that God will meet us and help us, as he equipped Jesus for his ministry	Luke 2:41-51 Jesus the boy
2 January 11		Matthew 3:1-17 John baptises Jesus
3 January 18		Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus in the desert
4 January 25		Matthew 11:1-6 Who is Jesus?
5 February 1	Isaac and his family Abraham experiences God's faithfulness as his family grows with the birth of Isaac	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8 Isaac is born
6 February 8		Genesis 24 Isaac and Rebekah
7 February 15		Genesis 25:19-34 Jacob and Esau
8 February 22		Genesis 27:1-45 Isaac's blessing
9 March 1 (Lent 1)	Stories of Jesus Jesus takes time to teach and train his followers and friends, through stories and by his example	Matthew 13:1-23 The story of the seeds
10 March 8		Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 The story of the weeds
11 March 15		Matthew 13:31-33 A tiny seed
12 March 22 (Mothering Sunday)		Matthew 19:13-15 Jesus and the children
13 March 29	Easter is coming Join with Jesus as he begins his journey to Jerusalem	Mark 10:46-52 Jesus and Bartimaeus

April–June 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 5 April (Palm Sunday)	Easter is coming The events of the first Easter show that, even when things seemed to be going wrong, God was fully in control	Matthew 21:1-17 Here comes Jesus!
2 12 April (Easter Sunday)		Matthew 28:1-10 Easter is here!
3 19 April		Matthew 28:20 Jesus is here!
4 26 April		Acts 1:6-11 Jesus goes to heaven
5 3 May	Jacob Discover, with Jacob, that God is with his people wherever they go	Genesis 28:10-22 God speaks to Jacob
6 10 May		Genesis 29:1-35 Jacob's family
7 17 May		Genesis 32,33 Jacob goes home
8 24 May		Genesis 35:1-15 God blesses Jacob
9 31 May (Pentecost)	Spreading the news Come with some of the first Christians as they experience the reality of God working in their lives	Acts 2; Galatians 5:22-26 The Holy Spirit
10 7 June		Acts 8:26-40 Philip explains
11 14 June		Acts 9:32-43 Peter prays
12 21 June		Acts 10 Cornelius prays
13 28 June		Acts 12:1-19 Peter escapes

July–September 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 5	Jesus cares John's gospel gives a unique portrait of Jesus, helping us to encounter and understand his care for each of us	John 2:1-11 Jesus helps
2 July 12		John 6:1-15 Jesus feeds
3 July 19		John 10:1-15 Jesus protects
4 July 26		John 11:17-44 Jesus gives life
5 August 2	Joseph Come with Joseph through many adventures, dangers, good and bad times, and see how God always knew what to do to keep him safe	Genesis 37:1-11 Joseph and his brothers
6 August 9		Genesis 37:12-36 Joseph goes to Egypt
7 August 16		Genesis 41 Joseph's clever plan
8 August 23		Genesis 42:1-13 Joseph helps his family
9 August 30		Genesis 45:1-13 All together now!
10 September 6	Jesus is amazing! Begin an adventure, full of surprises, as we discover what it is like to meet and follow Jesus	Luke 5:1-11,27-32; 6:12-16 Meeting Jesus
11 September 13		Luke 9:18-27 Knowing Jesus
12 September 20		Luke 9:28-36 Seeing Jesus
13 September 27		Luke 10:1-16 Following Jesus

October–December 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 4	Jesus lives! An opportunity to take time to explore the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, in the detail and depth that is not always possible at other times of the year (Each session builds upon the readings from the previous week)	Matt 26:17-35; Mark 14:22-31; Luke 22:14-20,31-34; John 13:36-38 A meal with Jesus
2 October 11		Matt 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:3-12 Jesus in the garden
3 October 18		Matthew 26:57 - 27:2; Mark 14:53 - 15:1; Luke 22:54-71;23:1; John 18:13-28 Jesus is questioned
4 October 25		Matt 27:14 - 28:20; Mark 15:6 - 16:18; Luke 23:13 - 24:49; John 18:39 - 20:23 Where is Jesus?
5 November 1	Moses in Egypt Moses and God's people discover that God loves them and will keep them safe, in many different situations	Exodus 2:1-10 Baby in a basket
6 November 8		Exodus 3:1 - 4:20 God talks to Moses
7 November 15		Exodus 11:1 - 12:30 A meal to remember
8 November 22		Exodus 14:1-31 Crossing the Red Sea
9 November 29 (Advent)	Christmas praise Explore and enjoy the well-loved Christmas story, through the songs and praises of those who saw it all happen	Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah's praise
10 December 6		Luke 1:46-56 Mary's praise
11 December 13		Luke 2:8-20 Angels' praise
12 December 20		Luke 2:1-40 Christmas praise
13 December 27		Luke 2:28-35 Simeon's praise

Splash! (5-8s), Xstream (8-11s)

January-March 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 4	Jesus and John We discover how God prepares his people as we look at the life of John the Baptist and his interaction with Jesus	Luke 2:41-51 Jesus in the Temple
2 January 11		Matthew 3:1-17 John in the desert
3 January 18		Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus in the desert
4 January 25		Matthew 11:1-19 John in prison
5 February 1	Isaac and our faithful God We see how faithful God is through the experiences of Isaac	Genesis 18:1-15,21:1-8 Isaac is born
6 February 8		Genesis 22 Abraham passes the test
7 February 15		Genesis 24 Isaac gets married
8 February 22		Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45 Isaac's children
9 March 1 (Lent 1)	Story seeds We look at a series of parables Jesus told and discover how God teaches and trains his people	Matthew 13:1-23 The story of the farmer
10 March 8		Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 The wheat and weeds story
11 March 15		Matthew 13:31-33 The mustard seed and yeast stories
12 March 22 (Mothering Sunday)		Matthew 19:13-15 Jesus blesses the children
13 March 29	Jesus reveals his authority A fresh look at the Easter story, looking at how God's authority is revealed	Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heals Bartimaeus

April-June 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 5 April (Palm Sunday)	Jesus rescues We explore the Easter story in Matthew to discover how Jesus fulfils God's rescue plan	Matthew 21:1-17 Jesus arrives in Jerusalem
2 12 April (Easter Sunday)		Matthew 28:1-10 Jesus is alive
3 19 April		Matthew 28:16-20 Jesus commissions his friends
4 26 April		Romans 5:1-11 Right with God
5 3 May	God is with Jacob Through Jacob's relationship with God, we explore the effect of God's constant presence in his life	Genesis 28:10-22 God's promises to Jacob
6 10 May		Genesis 29-31 Jacob gets married
7 17 May		Genesis 32,33 Jacob goes home
8 24 May		Genesis 35:1-15 God blesses Jacob
9 31 May (Pentecost)	Adventures with God Through the action packed stories of the early church, we discover God speaking and responding to his people	Acts 2; Galatians 5:16-26 The Holy Spirit comes
10 7 June		Acts 8:26-40 Philip explains
11 14 June		Acts 9:32-43 Peter prays
12 21 June		Acts 10 Cornelius prays
13 28 June		Acts 12:1-19 Peter escapes

July-September 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 5	Jesus shows God's love John's gospel gives a unique portrait of Jesus, helping us to encounter and understand his care for each of us	John 2:1-11 Water into water
2 July 12		John 6:1-15,22-40 Bread for life
3 July 19		John 10:1-15 Good shepherd
4 July 26		John 11:1-44 Death to life
5 August 2	God's plan for Joseph Come with Joseph through many adventures, dangers, good and bad times, and see how his life was part of God's plan	Genesis 37 Joseph dreams
6 August 9		Genesis 39 Do what's right
7 August 16		Genesis 41 Pharaoh's dreams
8 August 23		Genesis 42:1-13 Brothers buy grain
9 August 30		Genesis 45:1-13 Reunion
10 September 6	Following Jesus We explore the challenges and surprises involved in being friends with Jesus	Luke 5:1-11,27-32 Jesus calls his disciples
11 September 13		Luke 9:18-27 Who is Jesus?
12 September 20		Luke 9:28-36 Jesus in his glory
13 September 27		Luke 10:1-16 Jesus sends the 72

October-December 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 4	Jesus - our Saviour An opportunity to take time to explore the story of the death and resurrection of Jesus, in the detail and depth that is not always possible at other times of year (Each session builds upon the readings from the previous week)	Matt 26:17-35; Mark 14:22-31; Luke 22:14-20,31-34; John 13:36-38 Jesus' last meal
2 October 11		Matt 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:3-12 Jesus' arrest
3 October 18		Matt 26:57-68;27:1-14; Mark 14:53-65;15:1-5; Luke 22:54-55,63-71;23:1-5; John 18:13-14,19-24,28-38 Jesus' trial
4 October 25		Matt 27:14 - 28:20; Mark 15:6 - 16:18; Luke 23:13 - 24:49; John 18:39 - 20:23 Jesus saves
5 November 1	Birth of a nation God rescues his people from slavery in Egypt	Exodus 2:1-25 Rescue and run
6 November 8		Exodus 3:1 - 4:20 Holy ground
7 November 15		Exodus 11:1 - 12:30 Sacrificial lamb
8 November 22		Exodus 14:1-31 The great escape
9 November 29 (Advent)	Christmas praise Explore and enjoy the well-loved Christmas story through the praises of those who saw it happen.	Luke 1:67-80 Zechariah's praise
10 December 6		Luke 1:46-56 Mary's praise
11 December 13		Luke 2:8-20 Angels' praise
12 December 20		Luke 2:1-40 Christmas praise
13 December 27		Luke 2:28-35 Simeon's praise

theGRID (11-14s)

January-March 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 4	Ready for action? Through exploring Jesus' childhood and his interactions with John the Baptist, discover how God equips people to serve him	Luke 2:41-51 Routine surprises
2 January 11		Matthew 3:1-17 Earmarked
3 January 18		Matthew 4:1-11 Be prepared
4 January 25		Matthew 11:1-19 Have you heard?
5 February 1	Faithful Discovering that through the ups and downs of Abraham's family life, God remains faithful to his promises	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-8 At long last!
6 February 8		Genesis 22 Are you sure, God?
7 February 15		Genesis 24 Matchmaking
8 February 22		Genesis 25:19-34; 27:1-45 Family rivalries
9 March 1 (Lent 1)	Jesus speaks A look at how Jesus teaches and trains through what he says and how he behaves	Matthew 13:1-23 There was this farmer...
10 March 8		Matthew 13:24-30,36-43 There were some weeds...
11 March 15		Matthew 13:31-33 There was a seed...
12 March 22 (Mothering Sunday)		Matthew 19:13-15 There were some children...
13 March 29	In charge Even leading up to his crucifixion and apparent defeat, Jesus is still very much in charge	Mark 10:46-52 Extraordinary

April-June 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 5 April (Palm Sunday)	Rescue plan - launched This Easter, explore and be amazed at God's rescue plan for humankind	Matthew 21:1-17 What an entrance!
2 12 April (Easter Sunday)		Matthew 28:1-10 What a comeback!
3 19 April		Matthew 28:16-20 What a mission!
4 26 April		Romans 5:1-11 What a plan!
5 3 May	Jacob Jacob's life was far from straightforward, but God was always with him, working in him and through him and continuing to keep his promises	Genesis 28:10-22 Jacob's ladder
6 10 May		Genesis 29-31 Chat-show Jacob
7 17 May		Genesis 32,33 Brothers Reunited
8 24 May		Genesis 35:1-15 Jacob's timeout
9 31 May (Pentecost)	God speaks An opportunity to discover that God speaks and interacts with us in so many different ways	Acts 2; Galatians 5:16-26 Lives that speak
10 7 June		Acts 8:26-40 Confused?
11 14 June		Acts 9:32-43 Can you believe it?
12 21 June		Acts 10 Mind the gap
13 28 June		Acts 12:1-19 Great escape

July-September 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 5	Jesus: the compassionate King Four snapshots of Jesus' life that not only reveal his power and mission, but also his compassion	John 2:1-11 The Miracle-maker
2 July 12		John 6:1-15,22-40 The Bread of life
3 July 19		John 10:1-15 The Good Shepherd
4 July 26		John 11:1-44 The Crying Saviour
5 August 2	The highs and lows of life Joseph's life had many highs and lows - but throughout this rollercoaster life, God had a plan	Genesis 37 When the going gets tough
6 August 9		Genesis 39 A turn for the worst
7 August 16		Genesis 41 All in a day's work
8 August 23		Genesis 42:1-13 'Knock, knock' 'Who's there?'
9 August 30		Genesis 45:1-13 The time to forgive
10 September 6	The Challenge We investigate four of the challenges presented in Jesus' life and teaching - how will you respond?	Luke 5:1-11,27-32 Follow
11 September 13		Luke 9:18-27 Sacrifice
12 September 20		Luke 9:28-36 Recognise
13 September 27		Luke 10:1-20 Go

October-December 2009

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 4	Overcoming the barriers A look at the barriers which keep us from living life to the max	Mark 10:17-31 Barriers to Jesus 1
2 October 11		Matthew 8:18-22 Barriers to Jesus 2
3 October 18		Mark 15; 16:1-8 The barrier to God
4 October 25		Colossians 3:1-17 The barrier to life
5 November 1	Global issues, global warning A look at contemporary global issues through the events of the Exodus	Exodus 2:1-15 Injustice
6 November 8		Exodus 3:1 - 4:20 What difference can I make?
7 November 15		Exodus 11:1 - 12:30 Why doesn't God do something?
8 November 22		Exodus 14:1-31 Freedom
9 November 29 (Advent)	The King is born A series looking at the significance of God's Son becoming human	Luke 1:67-80 God's in the house
10 December 6		Luke 1:46-56 He's on his way
11 December 13		Luke 2:8-20 I want to break free
12 December 20		Romans 5:12-20 The new life
13 December 27		Luke 2:28-35 Breaking news