light

Syllabus for *Light* 2011

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 2011.

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 though 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 in 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:

Scripture Union Mail Order, PO Box 5148, Milton Keynes MLO, MK2 2YX

Telephone: 0845 07 06 006 (local rate)

Fax: 01908 856020

Email: mailorder@scriptureunion.org.uk

Bubbles (5s and under)

January–March 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 2	**David** God's love and protection for David are shown again and again as we see how God keeps him safe in unlikely and often dangerous circumstances	**1 Samuel 16:1–13** David the shepherd boy
2 January 9		**1 Samuel 18:1–5** David and Jonathan
3 January 16		**1 Samuel 20** David in trouble
4 January 23		**1 Samuel 24** David and King Saul
5 January 30	**Followers of Jesus** The first believers experience the power, the care and the forgiveness of God	**Philippians 2:25–30** Epaphroditus
6 February 6		**Philemon** Philemon
7 February 13		**2 Timothy 1:3–10; 3:14–17** A letter to Timothy
8 February 20 *(Lent 1)*	**Jonah** God knows what to do – whether it is a whole city or an individual who needs guidance	**Jonah 1,2** Jonah runs away
9 February 27		**Jonah 3,4** Jonah obeys God
10 March 6	**What Jesus said** Explore some of the pictures-in-words that Jesus created. A great series for younger children	**Matthew 7:24–27** Two house builders
11 March 13		**Matthew 13:44** Hidden treasure
12 March 20		**Matthew 13:45,46** A beautiful pearl
13 March 27		**Matthew 13:33** Yeast

April–June 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 3 *(Mothering Sunday)*	**Ruth** The story of Ruth shows us how God loves us and knows what we need	**Ruth 1** Naomi and Ruth
2 April 10		**Ruth 2–4** Ruth and Boaz
3 April 17 *(Palm Sunday)*	**God's big plan** A look at the last days of Jesus' earthly life to discover that the events were not random, but demonstrate that God is in control and knows what to do	**John 13:1–9,34,35** Jesus washes feet
4 April 24 *(Easter)*		**John 19:17–30; 20:1–18** Where is Jesus?
5 May 1		**John 20:19–31** Jesus and Thomas
6 May 8	**David the king** God promises David that he will be a powerful ruler and that one of his descendants will always be king	**2 Samuel 5:4–12; 6:1–19** David becomes king
7 May 15		**2 Samuel 7** God's promise to David
8 May 22		**2 Samuel 9** David is kind
9 May 29		**2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:15** David's big mistake
10 June 5	**The Holy Spirit** Jesus' friends wait for what he has promised	**Acts 1:6–11** Jesus goes to heaven
11 June 12 *(Pentecost)*		**Acts 2:1–13,43–47** Peter speaks out
12 June 19	**Solomon** The example of Solomon shows us how God can, and will, help us know what to do	**1 Kings 5:1 – 6:1** Solomon builds for God
13 June 26		**1 Kings 8:1–13,54–66** Solomon praises God

July–September 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 3	**Peter, friend of Jesus** Discover, with Peter, that God knows us and everything about us	**Mark 1:16–20** Peter meets Jesus
2 July 10		**Mark 8:27–30** Peter knows who Jesus is
3 July 17		**Mark 9:2–13** Shine, Jesus!
4 July 24		**Mark 14:27–31** Peter lets Jesus down
5 July 31		**Mark 16:1–8; John 21:15–19** Peter and Jesus are friends
6 August 7	**Spreading the news** Come with some of the first Christians as they experience the reality of God working in their lives	**Acts 8:26–40** Philip explains
7 August 14		**Acts 9:32–43** Peter prays
8 August 21		**Acts 10** Cornelius prays
9 August 28		**Acts 12:1–19** Peter escapes
10 September 4	**Elijah** We meet Elijah and find out how God showed his care for him	**1 Kings 17:1–7** God feeds Elijah
11 September 11		**1 Kings 17:8–24** God helps a family
12 September 18		**1 Kings 18** God shows his power
13 September 25		**1 Kings 19:1–18** God speaks to Elijah

October–December 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 2	**Jesus the friend** John introduces us to four people who meet Jesus and experience his care	**John 3:1–21** An evening visitor
2 October 9		**John 4:3–42** A woman at a well
3 October 16		**John 4:43–54** A man in need
4 October 23		**John 5:1–18** A man by a pool
5 October 30	**Elisha** Elisha's experiences give us confidence that God can do anything	**2 Kings 4:1–7** Elisha helps a family
6 November 6		**2 Kings 4:8–37** A home for Elisha
7 November 13		**2 Kings 5:1–19a** Elisha and Naaman
8 November 20		**2 Kings 6:8–23** Elisha prays
9 November 27 *(Advent)*	**Good news for everyone** Hear the good news of Christmas and join in celebrating the birth of Jesus	**Luke 1:26–38** Good news for Mary
10 December 4		**Matthew 1:18–25** Good news for Joseph
11 December 11		**Luke 2:1–20** Good news for the shepherds
12 December 18		**Matthew 2:1–15** Good news for the wise men
13 December 25 *(Christmas)*		**Luke 2:1–20; Matthew 2:1–12** Happy Christmas!

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

January–March 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 2	**In God's hands** We hear how God protects David in his early life	**1 Samuel 16:1–13; Psalm 23** Close to God's heart
2 January 9		**1 Samuel 17:1 – 18:5; Psalm 23** Larger than life
3 January 16		**1 Samuel 19,20; Psalm 23** Kept safe
4 January 23		**1 Samuel 24; Psalm 23** Wait for God's time
5 January 30	**Illustrated letters** Passages from Paul's letters illustrate how God lives in the lives of his people	**Philippians 2:25–30** No place like home
6 February 6		**Philemon** Freed to serve
7 February 13		**2 Timothy 1:3–10; 3:14–17** Letters to a friend
8 February 20 *(Lent 1)*	**Jonah the runaway** God's goodness and mercy are explored through the story of Jonah	**Jonah 1,2** Mercy on a city
9 February 27		**Jonah 3,4** Mercy on a man
10 March 6	**Jesus challenges us** Jesus' parables confront us with challenges about how we should live	**Matthew 7:13–29** Decisions to make
11 March 13		**Matthew 25:1–13** Bridesmaids
12 March 20		**Matthew 25:14–30** Talents
13 March 27		**Matthew 25:31–46** Sheep and goats

April–June 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 3 *(Mothering Sunday)*	**Ruth – God's answer** God's provision is displayed in the life of Ruth	**Ruth 1** Shoulder to shoulder
2 April 10		**Ruth 2–4** Good harvest
3 April 17 *(Palm Sunday)*	**Almighty plan** God's plan for our salvation, as told from John's Gospel	**John 12:20–36; 13** Coming as a servant
4 April 24 *(Easter)*		**John 19:17–30; 20:1–18** Dying – and rising in victory
5 May 1		**John 20:19–31** Proving beyond doubt
6 May 8	**Good King David?** God promises David that he will be a powerful ruler and that one of his descendants will always be king	**2 Samuel 5:4–12; 6:1–19** David: a new king
7 May 15		**2 Samuel 7** David: a king for ever
8 May 22		**2 Samuel 9** David: a good king
9 May 29		**2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:15** David: a king who goes wrong
10 June 5	**The gift of God's Spirit** The Holy Spirit brings God's power to the first Christians	**Acts 1:1–11** Promise made
11 June 12 *(Pentecost)*		**Acts 2:1–13,43–47** Promise delivered
12 June 19	**Solomon** Solomon displays the importance of honouring God and reflecting his holiness	**1 Kings 5–8** God moves in
13 June 26		**1 Kings 11:1–13,26–43; 12:1 – 13:10** Solomon moves out

July–September 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 3	**Living with Jesus** Explore Peter's experience of God's goodness and mercy as he follows Jesus	**Mark 1:16–20** New way of life
2 July 10		**Mark 8:27–30** New understanding
3 July 17		**Mark 9:2–13** New perspective
4 July 24		**Mark 14:27–31,66–72** Old fears
5 July 31		**John 21:15–19** New start
6 August 7	**Adventures with God** A series about our God who communicates	**Acts 8:26–40** Philip explains
7 August 14		**Acts 9:32–43** Peter prays
8 August 21		**Acts 10** Cornelius prays
9 August 28		**Acts 12:1–19** Peter escapes
10 September 4	**Elijah the prophet** The incomparable power of the Lord God is seen through the life of Elijah	**1 Kings 17** Power to provide
11 September 11		**1 Kings 18** Power to amaze
12 September 18		**1 Kings 19:1–21** The power to protect
13 September 25		**1 Kings 21:1–19; 22:29–40** The power to judge

October–December 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 2	**Jesus, the friend** God's love and compassion are seen in Jesus' encounters with four individuals	**John 3:1–21** Fresh start
2 October 9		**John 4:3–42** No secrets
3 October 16		**John 4:43–54** Healing word
4 October 23		**John 5:1–18** Helping hand
5 October 30	**Elisha the prophet** God's power is seen through his prophet, Elisha	**2 Kings 4:1–7** Powerful provider
6 November 6		**2 Kings 4:8–37** Powerful life-giver
7 November 13		**2 Kings 5** Powerful healer
8 November 20		**2 Kings 6:8–23** Powerful warrior
9 November 27 *(Advent)*	**Good and faithful God** We explore the lives of characters in the Christmas story and discover God's goodness and faithfulness	**Luke 1:26–38** Trusting Mary
10 December 4		**Matthew 1:18–25** Obedient Joseph
11 December 11		**Luke 2:1–20** The praising shepherds
12 December 18		**Matthew 2:1–15** The worshipping wise men
13 December 25 *(Christmas)*		**Luke 2:1–20; Matthew 2:1–12** Happy Christmas!

theGRID (11-14s)

January-March 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 2	**The boy becomes a man** The early years of David's life	**1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23** About a boy
2 January 9		**1 Samuel 17:1 - 18:5** Hunky gory
3 January 16		**1 Samuel 19:1-17** He's just a jealous guy
4 January 23		**1 Samuel 24** I'm not the bad guy
5 January 30	**Illustrated letters** Pictures of the Christian life	**Philippians 2:25-30** Risk assessment
6 February 6		**Philemon** Freed to serve
7 February 13		**2 Timothy 1:3-10; 3:14-17** He said to him and...
8 February 20 *(Lent 1)*	**Jonah** God's mercy towards others causes problems for Jonah	**Jonah 1,2** Leg it
9 February 27		**Jonah 3,4** I knew you'd do that
10 March 6	**Counterculture shock** How the kingdom of heaven should affect our lives	**Matthew 7:13-29** Subsidence
11 March 13		**Matthew 25:1-13** Live fast, die never
12 March 20		**Matthew 25:14-30** If it's true then...
13 March 27		**Matthew 25:31-46** Deadstock

April-June 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 3 *(Mothering Sunday)*	**Family ties** The story of Ruth demonstrates God's provision	**Ruth 1** Stand by your mum
2 April 10		**Ruth 2-4** Combined harvest
3 April 17 *(Palm Sunday)*	**The plan almighty** An overview of God's salvation, from John's Gospel	**John 12:20-36; 13** I love you
4 April 24 *(Easter)*		**John 19:17-30; 20:1-18** Is it finished?
5 May 1		**John 20:19-31** Urban myth
6 May 8	**Good King David?** God promises David that he will be a powerful ruler and that one of his descendants will always be king	**2 Samuel 5:4-12; 6:1-19** Starting out
7 May 15		**2 Samuel 7** Thinking big
8 May 22		**2 Samuel 9** Doing well
9 May 29		**2 Samuel 11:1 - 12:15** Going wrong
10 June 5	**The gift of God's Spirit** The Holy Spirit brings God's power to the first Christians	**Acts 1:1-11** Promise keeper
11 June 12 *(Pentecost)*		**Acts 2:1-13,43-47** Transformed
12 June 19	**Going Solo(mon)?** God is entirely good and he desires that his people reflect his holiness	**1 Kings 5-7; 8:1-13,54-61; 2 Chr 2-6; Ps 84** My way or the highway
13 June 26		**1 Kings 11:1-13,26-43; 12:1 - 13:10; 2 Chr 9:29 - 11:23; Ps 1** The tears of a clown

July-September 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 3	**Following Jesus** God's mercy shown through Peter's successes and failings	**Mark 1:16-20** Want to know me?
2 July 10		**Mark 8:27-30** Do you know me?
3 July 17		**Mark 9:2-13** Do you really know me?
4 July 24		**Mark 14:27-31,66-72** I don't know you!
5 July 31		**John 21:15-19** Well, I love you
6 August 7	**God speaks** When God speaks, he is not limited in his ways of communicating	**Acts 8:26-40** Confused?
7 August 14		**Acts 9:32-43** Can you believe it?
8 August 21		**Acts 10** Mind the gap
9 August 28		**Acts 12:1-19** Great escape
10 September 4	**Extreme prophecy** God's power and justice in the life of Elijah	**1 Kings 17** 'Can I have some more?'
11 September 11		**1 Kings 18** Great Baals of fire
12 September 18		**1 Kings 19** I'm not the one and only
13 September 25		**1 Kings 21:1-19; 22:29-40** Not beyond justice

October-December 2011

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 2	**Radical networking** As people meet Jesus, their lives are changed	**John 3:1-21** Reboot
2 October 9		**John 4:3-42** Spyware
3 October 16		**John 4:43-54** Remote assistance
4 October 23		**John 5:1-18** Debugged
5 October 30	**Elisha** God shows his power through 'hopeless' situations	**2 Kings 4:1-7** Eco oil
6 November 6		**2 Kings 4:8-37** Breathe again
7 November 13		**2 Kings 5** Healing dips
8 November 20		**2 Kings 6:8-23** Blindfolded
9 November 27 *(Advent)*	**Christmas time** Theme sessions drawn from the Christmas story	**Various inc. Luke 1:26-38** Angels
10 December 4		**Various inc. Matt 1:18-25** Dreams
11 December 11		**Various inc. Matt 2:1-15** Look at the stars
12 December 18		**Luke 2:1-21** Jesus is born
13 December 25 *(Christmas)*		**Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12** Happy Christmas!

Scripture union
light to live by

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light

207-209 Queensway Bletchley Milton Keynes MK2 2EB
T 01908 856000 F 01908 856111 E info@scriptureunion.org.uk