Syllabus for *Light* 2012

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 four 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 2012.

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.

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.

For small groups of children with a wide age range, the online resource *Mosaic* on *LightLive* supplies a session for each week, preselecting material suitable for 3-14s. *Mosaic* will also be available in printed form later in 2012 with sessions to be used on any date.

All-age and Lectionary resources

Light provides resources for all-age worship, with an all-age service linked to each series in the *Light* syllabus and short 'service starters' for every week. There are all-age services for festivals and special days too such as 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.

Light for the Lectionary also provides all-age worship material for churches using the *Revised Common* (or *Common Worship*) Lectionary. This is available in seperate volumes for Years A, B and C. *LectionaryLive* also provides corresponding children's sessions online, wherever they match with the *Light* syllabus.

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.*

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light

www.lightlive.org

Bubbles (5s and under)

January–March 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 1	**A new year!**	**Psalm 145** God is with us from year to year
2 January 8	**Old Testament kings** Meet Hezekiah and Josiah, two kings who led God's people in difficult times	**2 Kings 18:13 - 19:37** Hezekiah trusts God
3 January 15		**2 Kings 20:1–11** Hezekiah and Isaiah
4 January 22		**2 Kings 22:1–13; 23:1–3** Josiah becomes king
5 January 29		**2 Kings 23:1–23** Josiah and God's book
6 February 5	**What's Jesus like?** Explore how Jesus wants to be our friend – and how he wants us to be his friends too. A series for younger children	**Matthew 10:1–4** Jesus the leader
7 February 12		**Mark 6:45–52** Jesus is amazing
8 February 19		**Luke 17:11–19** Jesus the healer
9 February 26 *(Lent 1)*		**Luke 19:1–10** Jesus and Zacchaeus
10 March 4	**Jeremiah** God's messenger, Jeremiah, speaks out faithfully for God in difficult times	**Jeremiah 18:1–12** The potter's house
11 March 11		**Jeremiah 31:1–6; 32:1–15** Jeremiah buys a field
12 March 18 *(Mothering Sunday)*		**Jeremiah 36** Jeremiah's scroll
13 March 25		**Jeremiah 38:1–13** Jeremiah in the well

April–June 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 1 *(Palm)*	**Jesus is alive!** Easter starts here! Share in the amazing events as Jesus goes to Jerusalem	**Luke 19:28–40; 22:39–48** Jesus rides a donkey
2 April 8 *(Easter)*		**Luke 24:1–12** Jesus is alive today
3 April 15		**Luke 24:13–35** On the way to Emmaus
4 April 22		**Luke 24:36–49** Jesus meets his friends
5 April 29	**Daniel** The example of Daniel reassures us that God will help us to know what to do	**Daniel 1** Daniel's new life
6 May 6		**Daniel 6** Daniel prays to God
7 May 13	**Esther** The story of Esther helps us to know that God will keep us safe	**Esther 1–4** Beautiful Esther
8 May 20		**Esther 5–10** Esther saves God's people
9 May 27 *(Pentecost)*	**The church grows** The first followers of Jesus find their lives turned upside down, but they know that Jesus is with them always	**Acts 2:1–14,41,42** Wind and fire
10 June 3		**Acts 6:1–7** Stephen
11 June 10		**Acts 9:1–19** Paul
12 June 17	**Nehemiah** Nehemiah finds that God is always with him, to help and guide	**Nehemiah 1,2** Nehemiah builds
13 June 24		**Nehemiah 12:27–43; Psalm 126** Follow Nehemiah!

July–September 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 1	**God's champions** Meet people from the Old and New Testaments who were 'winners' by God's standards. Each session has a sporting parallel, giving scope to explore God's values further	**Genesis 49:22–26 (& 37,42–45)** Joseph and his brothers
2 July 8		**Exodus 15:19–21 (& 2:1–10)** Miriam
3 July 15		**Daniel 3 (& 1)** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
4 July 22		**Ezra 7; Nehemiah 8:1–10** Ezra
5 July 29		**Luke 3:1–20 (& others)** John the Baptist
6 August 5		**Acts 11:20–26; 13:1–5; 15:36–41** Barnabas
7 August 12		**Acts 18:24–28** Apollos
8 August 19		**Acts 16:1–5; 1&2 Timothy** Timothy
9 August 26		**Luke 1:1–4; Acts 1:1,2 (& 28:1)** Luke
10 September 2	**God makes the world** Enjoy encountering our wonderful God who has made everything	**Genesis 1:1–8** Light and sky
11 September 9		**Genesis 1:9–13** Land, sea and plants
12 September 16		**Genesis 1:14–19** Stars and planets
13 September 23		**Genesis 1:20 - 2:25** Animals and people
14 September 30		**Psalm 104** God the Maker

October–December 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 7	**What does Jesus do?** A series from Matthew's Gospel, exploring Jesus' power to heal, to help and to provide	**Matthew 8:1–4** Jesus heals a man
2 October 14		**Matthew 8:5–13** Jesus helps a soldier
3 October 21		**Matthew 8:23–27** Jesus stops a storm
4 October 28		**Matthew 15:32–39** Jesus feeds people
5 November 4	**God is good** God has made a good world for us to live in and he helps us to know how he wants us to live	**Genesis 2:5–25** The first people
6 November 11		**Genesis 6:9–22** Noah and the boat
7 November 18		**Genesis 7:1 - 8:12** Noah and the flood
8 November 25		**Genesis 8:13 - 9:17** Noah and the rainbow
9 December 2 *(Advent 1)*	**Christmas people** Meet the people who were there at the very first Christmas and discover how God came to them as a baby, Jesus	**Luke 1:26–56** Mary
10 December 9		**Luke 2:1–7** Joseph
11 December 16		**Luke 2:8–21** The shepherds
12 December 23		**Luke 2:22–38** Simeon and Anna
13 December 30		**Matthew 2:1–12** The wise men

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

January-March 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 1	**A new year!**	**Psalm 145** God is with us from year to year
2 January 8	**King of kings** God is fair, just and right, but the kings who lead his people do not always follow his ways	**2 Kings 18,19** God protects
3 January 15		**2 Kings 20** God restores
4 January 22		**2 Kings 21:1-18** God is forgotten
5 January 29		**2 Kings 23:1-23** God is remembered
6 February 5	**Living God's way** We follow Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount to discover how to live holy lives	**Matthew 5:1-12** Attitudes to follow
7 February 12		**Matthew 5:13-48** Laws for life
8 February 19		**Matthew 6:1-18** Ways to pray
9 February 26 *(Lent 1)*		**Matthew 6:19 - 7:12** Reasons to trust
10 March 4	**Jeremiah the prophet** The lordship and foreknowledge of God are explored through key experiences in the life of his prophet, Jeremiah	**Jeremiah 18:1-12** In the potter's shop
11 March 11		**Jeremiah 31:1-6; 32:1-15** Buying a field
12 March 18 *(Mothering Sunday)*		**Jeremiah 36** Burning a scroll
13 March 25		**Jeremiah 38:1-13** Down a well

April-June 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 1 *(Palm)*	**Victorious love** Jesus completes his work, and death is defeated	**Luke 19:28-40; 22:39-48** The King's decision
2 April 8 *(Easter)*		**Luke 24:1-12** Death defeated
3 April 15		**Luke 24:13-35** Walk to Emmaus
4 April 22		**Luke 24:36-49** Flesh and bones
5 April 29	**Daring Daniel** Daniel shows the uniqueness of God. God's desire to rescue his people is illustrated in the life of Daniel	**Daniel 1** Daniel is different
6 May 6		**Daniel 6** Daniel in the lions' den
7 May 13	**Queen Esther** God protects his people in the story of Esther	**Esther 1-4** A challenge for Esther
8 May 20		**Esther 5-10** Esther to the rescue
9 May 27 *(Pentecost)*	**Travelling in faith** The early Christian church grows, under God's directions	**Acts 2** Spirit-power
10 June 3		**Acts 6,7** Ever faithful
11 June 10		**Acts 9:1-31** Stunning vision
12 June 17	**Nehemiah the governor** Wall building shows God's desire to restore his people	**Nehemiah 1,2,4** At prayer, at work
13 June 24		**Nehemiah 12:27-43; Psalm 126** Dedication and celebration

July-September 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 1	**God's champions** Meet people from the Old and New Testaments who were 'winners' by God's standards. Each session has a sporting parallel, giving scope to explore God's values further	**Genesis 49:22-26 (& 37,42-45)** Joseph and his brothers
2 July 8		**Exodus 15:19-21 (& 2:1-10)** Miriam
3 July 15		**Daniel 3 (& 1)** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
4 July 22		**Ezra 7; Nehemiah 8:1-10** Ezra
5 July 29		**Luke 3:1-20 (& others)** John the Baptist
6 August 5		**Acts 11:20-26; 13:1-5; 15:36-41** Barnabas
7 August 12		**Acts 18:24-28** Apollos
8 August 19		**Acts 16:1-5; 1&2 Timothy** Timothy
9 August 26		**Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1,2 (& 28:1)** Luke
10 September 2	**Creator God** Learn about God creating an amazing universe	**Genesis 1:1-8** God makes light, day and night
11 September 9		**Genesis 1:9-13** God makes land, plants and sea
12 September 16		**Genesis 1:14-19** God makes sun, moon and stars
13 September 23		**Genesis 1:20 - 2:25** God makes animals and people
14 September 30		**Psalm 104** Creation praise

October-December 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 7	**What does Jesus do?** A series from Matthew's Gospel, exploring Jesus' power to heal, to help and to provide	**Matthew 8:1-4** Power to heal
2 October 14		**Matthew 8:5-13** Officer's orders
3 October 21		**Matthew 8:23-27** Storm-stopper
4 October 28		**Matthew 15:32-39** 4,000 for lunch
5 November 4	**God sets the standard** God responds with justice and grace when people sin	**Genesis 2,3** Bad fruit
6 November 11		**Genesis 4:1-16** Our choice
7 November 18		**Genesis 6:1 - 8:19** Flood warning
8 November 25		**Genesis 8:20 - 9:17** Rainbow promise
9 December 2 *(Advent 1)*	**God comes to his people** We explore the different people God came to in the first Christmas	**Luke 1:26-56** God comes to Mary
10 December 9		**Luke 2:1-7** God comes to Bethlehem
11 December 16		**Luke 2:8-21** God comes to the shepherds
12 December 23		**Luke 2:22-38** God comes to Simeon and Anna
13 December 30		**Matthew 2:1-23** God comes to the wise men

theGRID (11-14s)

January-March 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 January 1	**A new year!**	**Ecclesiastes 3** Heaven knows I'm miserable now
2 January 8	**A right royal rumble** The goodness and justice of God is explored through three kings	**2 Kings 18,19** Up against the odds
3 January 15		**2 Kings 20** Help me, please
4 January 22		**2 Kings 21:1-18** Evil with a capital 'M'
5 January 29		**2 Kings 23:1-23** Follow the leader
6 February 5	**Total life** A look at the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount	**Matthew 5:1-12** Bad attitude
7 February 12		**Matthew 5:13-48** Oh, behave!
8 February 19		**Matthew 6:1-18** Silent prayer?
9 February 26 *(Lent 1)*		**Matthew 6:19 - 7:12** Don't worry, be happy
10 March 4	**Prophet of doom** Jeremiah proclaims God's unpopular message	**Jeremiah 18:1-12** Whatever
11 March 11		**Jeremiah 31:1-6; 32:1-15** Hope springs eternal
12 March 18 *(Mothering Sunday)*		**Jeremiah 36** 'I'm not listening!'
13 March 25		**Jeremiah 38:1-13** Well, fancy that

April-June 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 April 1 *(Palm)*	**God of victory** Easter, including Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday	**Luke 19:28-44** Fame idol
2 April 8 *(Easter)*		**Luke 24:1-12** Life reloaded
3 April 15		**Luke 24:13-35** What a difference a day makes
4 April 22		**Luke 24:36-49** We are witnesses
5 April 29	**Set apart** How Daniel and his friends stayed holy and faithful to God in a godless society	**Daniel 1** Just say 'no'
6 May 6		**Daniel 6** Stick to the truth
7 May 13	**God the protector** Esther and Mordecai trusted in God's protection	**Esther 1-4** Such a time as this
8 May 20		**Esther 5-10** Happy ending?!
9 May 27 *(Pentecost)*	**Illustrated letters** Pictures of the Christian life	**1 Corinthians 12,13** Body beautiful
10 June 3		**Hebrews 11:39 - 12:3; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27** Starters' orders
11 June 10		**Ephesians 6:10-18** Tooled up
12 June 17	**Home again** God restores his people who had been in exile and helps them rebuild the city	**Nehemiah 1,2,4** Homeward bound
13 June 24		**Nehemiah 6:15,16; 12:27-43** Give it back to God

July-September 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 July 1	**God's champions** Meet people from the Old and New Testaments who were 'winners' by God's standards. Each session has a sporting parallel, giving scope to explore God's values further	**Genesis 49:22-26 (& 37,42-45)** Joseph and his brothers
2 July 8		**Exodus 15:19-21 (& 2:1-10)** Miriam
3 July 15		**Daniel 3 (& 1)** Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego
4 July 22		**Ezra 7; Nehemiah 8:1-10** Ezra
5 July 29		**Luke 3:1-20 (& others)** John the Baptist
6 August 5		**Acts 11:20-26; 13:1-5; 15:36-41** Barnabas
7 August 12		**Acts 18:24-28** Apollos
8 August 19		**Acts 16:1-5; 1&2 Timothy** Timothy
9 August 26		**Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1,2 (& 28:1)** Luke
10 September 2	**God the Creator** God makes the world and makes people in his image. What difference does that make to you?	**Genesis 1:1-19** In the beginning
11 September 9		**Genesis 1:20-31** Made in his image
12 September 16		**Genesis 2:1-3** Blessed and holy
13 September 23		**Genesis 2:4-25** You and God
14 September 30		**Psalm 104** Praise the Lord!

October-December 2012

Session and date	Series title and description	Main Bible passage(s) and session title
1 October 7	**Power in action** Through Jesus' use of his power, we find out more about who he is	**Matthew 8:1-4** Unclean!
2 October 14		**Matthew 8:5-13** Sick!
3 October 21		**Matthew 8:23-27** In danger!
4 October 28		**Matthew 15:32-39** Hungry!
5 November 4	**Not rough justice** God is just and demands a response from us	**Genesis 3** Apple disaster
6 November 11		**Genesis 4:1-16; 6:1-8** Fugitive from justice?
7 November 18	**God's grace?** The story of Noah and of God's grace in saving him	**Genesis 6:9 - 8:19** Saving grace
8 November 25		**Genesis 8:20 - 9:17** Gracious promise
9 December 2 *(Advent 1)*	**Belonging** Paul's advice on how to be the people that God wants us to be	**Philippians 1** Only the lonely
10 December 9		**Philippians 2** Humility
11 December 16		**Philippians 3,4** Friends and peer pressure
12 December 23	**God comes to his people** The birth of Jesus Christ	**Luke 2:1-21** God in the flesh
13 December 30		**Matthew 2:1-23** Stars in their eyes

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